

(d) Excavations are taken up with the approval of the competent authority to resolve specific archaeological problems and not for just collecting antiquities. The Archaeological Survey protects only such monuments/ remains which are of national importance.

Taking over of Manipur University

1052. SHRI YAIMA SINGH YUMNAM: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to convert the Manipur University into the Central University of the North Eastern Region of the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(d) details of any other steps taken to provide assistance to Manipur University?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI ARJUN SINGH): (a) to (c). Manipur University has been established under an Act of State Legislature, and as a matter of policy, the Central Government does not convert State Universities into Central Universities.

(d) UGC provides development grants to State Universities for strengthening institutional infrastructure such as buildings, books and journals, equipment and other facilities designed to promote the quality and level of teaching and research. The Commission also provides grants under various Schemes of special assistance. According to the information furnished by UGC, the Commission provided financial assistance amounting to Rs. 254.20 lakhs to Manipur University during the 7th Plan and a grant of Rs. 135.00 lakhs has been allocated in the 8th Plan.

National Institute of Sports

1053. SHRI K. MURALEE DHARAN: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal to set up a National Institute of Sports;

(b) if so, the place at which it is likely to be set up; and

(c) when the work is likely to be started in this regard and its target date of completion?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DEPARTMENT OF YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS AND THE DEPARTMENT OF WOMEN, AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT) (KUMARI MAMATA BANERJEE): (a) and (b). There is already a National Institute of Sports at Patiala, established in 1961. Its branches have been established at Bangalore, Calcutta, Gandhinagar and Imphal, and Sub-Centres at Aurangabad and Guwahati. There is at present no felt need to set up another National Institute of Sports.

(c) Does not arise.

Students Studying in USSR

1054. SHRI RAMESH CHENNITHALA: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware of the plights of the students studying in different colleges and Universities of the erstwhile USSR;

(b) whether the Government propose to accommodate the students in the Universities and college in India to save their academic year; and