

(c) No, Sir.

(d) and (e). Do not arise.

Basic Shiksha Parishad

3866. SHRI ASHOK PRADHAN: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Basic Shiksha Parishad, Saharanpur, U.P. had appointed 263 trained Assistant Teachers during March, 1995 to May, 1995;

(b) if so, whether any advertisements were published in newspapers in this regard and interviews of the candidates were held and the appointments were made by the District Basic Shiksha Adhikari;

(c) whether the district administration has declared these appointments as invalid and all these teachers have not been paid any salaries for the last seventeen months;

(d) the reasons for declaring the appointments as invalid and not paying the salaries to these teachers;

(e) the steps being taken to rectify the situation and to provide adequate and justified compensation to these teachers; and

(f) the action taken against the officials found responsible?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI MUHI RAM SAIKIA): As per information received from the State Project Director, UP Education for All, Lucknow.

(a) The number of teachers appointed by Basic Shiksha Adhikari, Saharanpur during the said period is 270.

(b) Yes Sir.

(c) to (d). Inquiry conducted by the Secretary, UP Basic Shiksha Parishad has revealed some procedural irregularities in the appointment of the said teachers in the matters of verification of vacancies, preparation of select list, reservation of vacancies in respect of SC/ST and OBC categories. Also the select list was not approved by the duly constituted Selection Committee and no financial approval from the concerned authorities was obtained. On account of these irregularities payment of salaries could not be made to the teachers.

(e) A writ petition has been filed in the High Court of Allahabad praying for payment of salaries to the appointed teachers. The Court vide its judgement dated 22.5.96 desired the State Govt. to examine the matter and pass appropriate orders for release of salaries. Director, Education (Basic) afforded the petitioner a hearing on 26.7.1996. The hearing was adjourned on the request of the petitioner.

(f) As per orders of Hon'ble High Court the Director, Education (Basic) is hearing the matter. Till the final decision of the Director, the question of action does not arise.

Indian Missions Abroad

3867. SHRI SURESH PRABHU: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of Indian Embassies, Consulates and other related offices of Missions abroad;

(b) the number of persons employed therein;

(c) the average quantum of funds spent thereon annually; and

(d) the details of benefits accruing to India as a result of business promotion efforts abroad?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI I.K. GUJRAL): (a) The Indian Missions/Posts abroad are 158.

(b) There are 4564 regular posts on the strength of the Ministry of External Affairs for manning the above Missions/Posts.

(c) Average annual expenditure on the maintenance of above Missions/Posts abroad over the last 3 financial years is Rs 409.15 crores, under the budget of the Ministry of External Affairs.

(d) The Indian Missions/Posts abroad are the nodal point for trade and investment promotion. They are actively involved in collection and dissemination of market intelligence for the Indian export agencies; organisation of direct interaction between the businessmen from India and other countries for trade and investment promotion; commercial publicity; participation in trade fairs; procurement and dissemination of trade related literature including the policy matters; identification of potential buyers of Indian goods and investors interested in India and in resolving trade related disputes. These efforts and a focused strategy for export promotion and foreign investment have yielded positive and encouraging results.

[Translation]

Dry Ports

3868. PROF. PREM SINGH CHANDUMAJRA: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the demand for setting up of dry ports has come up before Government as a result of the rising import-export trade over the years;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government have formulated any scheme for setting up of such dry ports in various areas of the country;

(d) if so, the names of places, where such ports will be set up; and