

(d) the steps which Government propose to take in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EDUCATION (SHRI BHAGWAT JHA AZAD): (a) and (b). Some schools in Delhi celebrated, as usual, the 'Independence Day' of India on the 14th instead of 15th August this year without having anything to do with the Pakistan Day of Independence. This is due to the fact that these schools want to celebrate the 'Independence Day' in a befitting manner by organising activities of their talented students for parents and public, which would not be possible on the 15th August as it is a closed holiday and the public, including students and teachers, is expected to attend the Central Function at the Red Fort on that day.

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

ASIAN REGIONAL SCIENCE SCHEME

6803. SHRI MAHANT DIGVI-JAI NATH: Will the Minister of EDUCATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that an Asian Regional Science Scheme is likely to emerge out of the 26 Nations Conference, CASTASIA;

(b) if so, the details of the benefits which India will derive from the scheme, particularly in the field of agriculture, education, health, etc; and

(c) the time by which such a scheme is proposed to be implemented?

THE MINISTER OF EDUCATION (DR. TRIGUNA SEN): (a) No, Sir. There is no specific proposal for an Asian Regional Science Scheme. The CASTASIA Conference for Asia, convened by UNESCO, is an attempt to initiate and strengthen regional collaboration among Asian countries in the field of application of science and technology to development.

(b) and (c). Do not arise.

INLAND WATER TRANSPORT

6804. SHRI R. BARUA: Will the Minister of TRANSPORT AND SHIPPING be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have formulated schemes to make inland water transport function as an integral part of a composite transport net work serving the region as a whole;

(b) whether the potentialities in this regard in selected regions of the country have been studied; and

(c) if so, the results thereof?

THE MINISTER OF TRANSPORT AND SHIPPING (DR. V. K. R. V. RAO): (a) It has been decided to set up a Committee on Inland Water Transport to study the existing Inland Water Transport system in the country and against a perspective of development of this form of transport in different regions to suggest a phased programme of development, including running of Commercial Services in selected regions.

(b) and (c). Do not arise.

COMMUNAL WRITINGS

6805. SHRI ZULFIQUAR ALI KHAN: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether an Urdu daily paper Quami-Jung published from Rampur has been indulging in communal and other seditious writings for some time past;

(b) whether complaints in this regard have been received from several quarters;

(c) if so, whether any action on the basis of the recent decisions of the National Integration Council has been taken against the paper;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI VIDYA CHARAN SHUKLA): (a) The paper 'Quami

Jung published from Rampur has come to the notice of the Government of Uttar Pradesh for publishing articles with a communal bias.

(b) and (c). Yes, Sir.

(d) Prosecution has been launched against the paper u/s 153A IPC and Section 295A IPC. Careful scrutiny of issues of the daily is being made by the Uttar Pradesh Government as well as by the district authorities.

(e) Does not arise.

REDUCTION IN ADMISSION TO ENGINEERING COURSE IN ALIGARH UNIVERSITY

6806. SHRI MOHSIN: Will the Minister of EDUCATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the annual intake of students in the B.Sc. Engineering Course at Aligarh Muslim University has been substantially cut down;

(b) whether a reduction in admission in other Central Universities has been ordered on similar basis;

(c) if so, the ratio of reduction in the Aligarh Muslim University and other Central Universities;

(d) the grounds for such reduction;

(e) whether the University Grants Commission or the Management of the Aligarh Muslim University was consulted before cutting down the admissions; and

(f) whether the Vice-Chancellor of the said University has made several representations in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EDUCATION (SHRI BHAGWAT JHA AZAD): (a) According to the information available, the Aligarh Muslim University has decided to admit only 180 students this year as against 240 students in 1967-68.

(b) The only other Central University, Banaras Hindu University, has reduced admissions from 547 to 410.

(c) The reduction is about 25 per cent in both cases.

(d) In view of the present unemployment among engineers and uncertainty of the future demand for technical personnel, the Central Government suggested to State Governments and Universities to regulate admissions to technical institutions according to the instructional facilities available, and to improve standards.

(e) The authorities of the Aligarh Muslim University took the final decision to reduce admissions. The University Grants Commission was kept informed of the suggestion of the Central Government to regulate admissions according to the instructional facilities available.

(f) Initially, the Vice-Chancellor of the Aligarh Muslim University was not in favour of any reduction in admissions. Later, when the entire position regarding unemployment among engineers and the need to consolidate technical education was explained to him, the University agreed to a planned reduction in admissions.

NEW ALIGARH MUSLIM UNIVERSITY ACT

6807. SHRI MOHSIN: Will the Minister of EDUCATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Bill for the new Aligarh Muslim University Act is ready;

(b) the reasons for bringing it up before Parliament; and

(c) whether it is a fact that there is a great hindrance to the working of the University without an enactment based on the autonomy of the University?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EDUCATION (SHRI BHAGWAT JHA AZAD): (a) Not yet.

(b) It has to be brought before the Parliament as the authority for amending the present Act vests in the Parliament.