

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI KABINDRA PURKAYASTHA):

(a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Arambagh Telephone Exchange is situated beyond Calcutta Metropolitan Development Authority (CMDA) area and is not covered in the present policy of the department. Hence Arambagh Telephone Exchange is served by West Bengal Telecom Circle.

#### **Closing Down of Foreign Universities**

1846. SHRI SANDIPAN THORAT :  
PROF. P.J. KURIEN :  
SHRI MOHAN RAWALE :

Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) the present status of the court case pending before the Madras High Court challenging the legality of foreign universities functioning in the country; and

(b) the details thereof including the action taken, if any, by the Government in the event of case having been disposed off to put a check on the operation of such educational institutes?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT AND MINISTER OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI) : (a) and (b) The matter is sub-judice before the Madras High Court on a Petition moved by one Shri R. Sethuraman challenging the legality of foreign universities functioning in the country. While the case is yet to be finally disposed off, the honourable Court has permitted such universities to operate in the country subject to certain restrictions till the final disposal of the case.

#### **Schemes for the Development of Sports**

1847. SHRI MUKUL WASNIK : Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the schemes the Government have approved during the last three years for the development of sports, State-wise;

(b) the status of the schemes;

(c) whether the Government have any plans to revise the scheme for financial assistance to develop the sports infrastructure; and

(d) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (KUMARI UMA BHARATI) : (a) No schemes have been approved by the Union Government during the last three years for the development of sports, State-wise.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) Keeping in view the considerable increase in the cost of various sports infrastructure, resulting in the need to provide enhanced Central grant for various projects, and in order to make it easier to implement, the existing scheme is being revised.

#### **Committee on Conservation of Bio-Diversity**

1848. PROF. SAIFUDDIN SOZ : Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government had constituted a committee to suggest a constitutional/legal frame for conservation of India's bio-diversity; and

(b) if so, the details of the recommendations made by the Committee?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI BABU LAL MARANDI) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The Government had constituted an expert committee in August 1997 to recommend a suitable draft bill on biological diversity. The committee gave its report in October 1997 alongwith a Brief Outline of a Biological Diversity Act in October 1997. The Brief Outline covers the following elements towards securing conservation and sustainable utilisation of biological diversity and fair and equitable sharing of benefits arising out of the use of biological diversity.

(i) Access to biological resources and information related thereto.

(ii) Benefit sharing with conserves of biological resources/creators and holders of knowledge and information relating to the use of biological resources.

(iii) Notification of areas important from the stand point of biological diversity as Biological Diversity Heritage Sites.

(iv) Protection of threatened species.

(v) Establishment of functional structure including a National Authority for the implementation of the legislation.