

(c) Attainment of international standards is a continuous process and no time frame can be laid.

Canadian Delegation

1373. SHRI JAI PRAKASH AGARWAL : Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether attention of the Government has been drawn to the newsitem captioned 'Canada Pratinidhi Mandal Me Khalistani Hamdard' appearing in the 'Dainik Jagran' dated January 12, 1997;

(b) if so, the details thereof and reaction of the Government thereto;

(c) whether such type of cases have been noticed by the Union Government in the past also;

(d) if so, whether the Union Government have raised the matter in various International fora/ institutes condemning the attitude of Canada;

(e) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(f) the effective steps being taken by the Union Government with a view to prevent such interference in the internal affairs of our country in future?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI I.K. GUJRAL): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Ram Raghbir Chahal was not a member of the delegation led by the Canadian Foreign Minister, Llyod Axworthy as it is mentioned in the news report, nor did he visit India while the delegation was in India.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) and (e) Do not arise.

(f) Government has made its stand known to friendly countries on this issue. Government has also instituted exchange of information regarding activities of terrorists. In this context, during the recent visit of Canadian Foreign Minister to India, it was decided to establish a working group on terrorism to intensify cooperation between the two Governments to combat terrorism.

Decline in Education

1374. SHRI SATYA DEO SINGH: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a sharp decline in the field of education;

(b) if so, whether any action has been taken by the Government to find out reasons of this decline; and

(c) if so, the results thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI MUHI RAM SAIKIA): (a) to (c) The National Policy on Education (NPE, 1996, as updated in 1992, contains a comprehensive framework to provide better education. To fulfil this objective, a number of initiatives has been launched like Operation Blackboard. Non-formal

Education, District Institutes of Education and Training (DIET), Minimum Levels of Learning (MLL), District Primary Education Programme (DPEP) in order to improve the quality, content and process of education. Programme like MLL aims at specifying the competencies which children are required to attain in language, mathematics and environment studies while teachers' competencies are sought to be improved under DIET.

[English]

Performance in International Sports

1375. SHRI MANGAL RAM PREMI : Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the number of schools in the country which do not have any playgrounds and physical training instructors and the steps proposed to be taken in this regard;

(b) whether a meeting of the State Sports Ministers' was held recently in Delhi to discuss as to how the State Governments can step up their involvement in the promotion of sports, integrate physical education in the schools and colleges; and

(c) if so, the outcome thereof?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI S.R. BOMMAI) : (a) As per the Fifth All India Educational Survey of 1986, 2,65,590 schools do not have playgrounds whereas 6,58,128 schools do not have physical education (PE)/Yoga teachers in the country. The Govt. of India has requested the states to develop playgrounds with the help of Jawahar Rojgar Yojna funds and to take up a programme for pre-service and in-service training of subject teachers as Physical Education Teachers.

(b) and (c) Yes, Sir. During the conference, all the states supported the recommendations of the Central Advisory Board of Education to integrate physical education and sports with school curriculum.

By Pass on N.H. No. 4 in Karnataka

1376. SHRI P. KODANDARAMAIAH : Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to construct a by-pass on H.N. No. 4 of Sira Town in Karnataka;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI T.G. VENKATRAMAN): (a) to (c) Yes Sir. There is a proposal for construction of Sira bypass for which land acquisition is in progress. The work will be taken up after the land is acquired subject to the availability of funds.