

are signing agreements with American, German and French Universities. Are these registered? Is there any system of registration for it in the department of Human Resource Development.

[English]

Are you going to introduce the registration system? In addition to that, what are the main recommendations of the Task Force Committee?

[Translation]

DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI: Mr. Speaker, Sir, no registration is done with regard to mutual agreement signed between Indian Universities and foreign Universities in the Department of Human Resource Development because the Universities are run by the State Governments. However, we get the information about the agreements signed by the Central Universities. But only that agreement is legal which is signed in accordance with the Act of Universities. The problem crop up when some foreign Universities run their course through private agents. So far we had no power to ban it. There was no provision of this kind in University Grants Commission Act. That is why we formed a task force to suggest the way to check irregular activities of these Universities. In the recommendations of the task force, proper amendments have been suggested in the University Grants Commission Act, over which we are considering and would soon bring a legislation in this regard.

SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I had asked as to what were main recommendations of the task force? I would also like to know whether Government are contemplating to de-control the education. If not, what are the reasons for it?

DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI: The Supreme court has passed a judgment that the education should not be commercialised. The second aspect of the problem is that the foreigners come to India and run an institution or a University and go back to their countries after two to four months or years. Therefore we have to make an arrangement to check fly-by-night operators and see that our students get admission only in those Universities which are having mutual relations with us. In other words we have to see whether the degrees of those universities can be recognised in India or not and whether the degrees of Indian Universities are recognised in those countries. The recommendations have been made in details in this regard. We have to keep in mind that our

students are not deprived of the extension of the education and we have to provide what is called training of Universities and in which the Universities have mutual relations. At the same time we have to keep in mind that our student do not suffer unnecessarily, they do not pay huge amount of money as fees and our money may not go to foreign countries unnecessarily. Some reports have been received that an amount of 2000 crore rupees is going out of the country on this account. Considering all these things, we are considering over the recommendations of that task force and will soon check and control it.

SHRI DATTA MEGHE: Mr. Speaker, Sir, in how many days are you going to take decision with regard to the recommendations. All agree that education should not be commercialised but there are also good institutions. Have you fixed any time limit for taking decision in this regard? Have you prepared any time bound programme in this regard?

DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI: We have got the report of task force recently and it is being examined. We have to consult Department of Legal Affairs, University Grants Commission and contact foreign institutions which were seen functioning in India. We are also studying the laws of the Universities.

SHRI DATTA MEGHE: Please specify some time limit of six month or a year in this regard.

DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI: We want to do it as early as possible. Therefore, we want to impose ban in this regard by doing all these works at the earliest.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

Sale of Lotteries

*181. SHRI SHANTILAL PURSHOTTAMDAS PATEL: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the lotteries run by private organisations are much in operation; and

(b) if so, the concrete steps proposed to be taken by the Government to stop the sale of lottery tickets run by such organisations?

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI L.K. ADVANI) (a) and (b) Lotteries can be broadly divided

into the following two categories:

- (i) Lotteries organised by the Government of India or the Government of a State under Entry 40 of List I—Union List of the Seventh Schedule to the Constitution of India; and
- (ii) Lotteries organised under Entry 34—Betting and gambling—of List II—State List of the Seventh Schedule to the Constitution of India.

2. So far as lotteries under the first category are concerned, the Central Government has already enacted The Lotteries (Regulation) Act, 1998. Lotteries organised by the private individuals, institutions, organisations, etc. are covered under the second category. The State Governments are competent to authorise such lotteries. However, a proposal to impose a comprehensive ban on the lottery trade in the country is under consideration.

Ban on the Outflow of Crude Oil by ULFA

*183. SHRI ARIF MOHAMMED KHAN: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether attention of the Government has been drawn to the news-item captioned "ULFA 'bans' crude oil outflow" appearing in the *'Asian Age'* dated February 5, 1999;

(b) if so, the facts thereof; and

(c) the steps taken or proposed to be taken by the Union Government to meet the situation?

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI L.K. ADVANI): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. ULFA—a banned outfit—has demanded stoppage of exploration of new oil fields in Assam and announced a 4-point oil blockade programme, viz., obstruction to drilling of new oil fields; resistance to pumping out of oil to places outside Assam; ban on construction of pipelines and drillings on private or public lands; and resistance to any forcible drilling work.

(c) The State Government and the Oil industry have been advised to tighten security and take necessary precautionary measures.

Assistance for Education of Handicapped

*187. SHRI RAVI PRAKASH VERMA: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the schemes which are in operation for the benefit of handicapped;

(b) whether there are any special schemes for providing education to the handicapped boys and girls;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether the Government received any special proposals from the State Governments regarding special allocation of funds in this regard;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) the action taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRIMATI MANEKA GANDHI): (a) to (c) A statement is enclosed.

(d) No Sir.

(e) and (f) Does not arise.

Statement

(a) The Scheme in operation under this Ministry for the benefit of the disabled are (i) Assistance to disabled persons for purchase/fitting of aids and appliances; (ii) Assistance to Voluntary organisations for the welfare of the disabled; (iii) Assistance to Voluntary organisations for establishment and development of Special Schools (iv) Assistance to voluntary organisations for rehabilitation of Leprosy Cured Persons; and (v) Assistance to Voluntary organisations for Manpower Development in the field of Cerebral Palsy and Mental Retardation. However with effect from 20.1.99 the schemes at (ii) to (v) have been brought under one comprehensive umbrella Scheme to promote voluntary action for persons with disabilities. Besides, Department of Education (under Ministry of Human Resource Development) has been implementing a Centrally Sponsored Scheme titled Integrated Education for Disabled Children (IEDC).

(b) and (c) The Central Sector Scheme under this Ministry for the establishment and development of Special Schools envisages financial assistance to voluntary organisations upto the extent of 90 per cent for