

(e) whether Government have received a memorandum in this regard from 'Bhartiya Patita Uddhar Sabha'; and

(f) if so, the details thereof and the policy being adopted by Government in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DEPARTMENT OF YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS AND THE DEPARTMENT OF WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT) (KUMARI MAMATA BANERJEE) : (a) and (b) Government of India is implementing a number of schemes and programmes for the upliftment of women and children under which grants-in-aid are released to voluntary organisations. In most of the cases grants are released to the State Governments and the Union Territory Administrations for further disbursement to the voluntary organisations. In some cases, proposals for grants-in-aid recommended by State Governments and Union Territory Administrations are considered and funds released to eligible organisations in accordance with the schematic pattern prescribed under different schemes. Grants-in-aid are also released directly to some national level voluntary organisations and other autonomous bodies registered under Societies Registration Act under control of the Government. This is in addition to programmes being run by the Government in the Central and the State Sectors.

(c) to (f) A proposal has been received from the 'Bhartiya Patita Uddhar Sabha' New Delhi which inter-alia contains suggestions for prohibition of prostitution and rehabilitation of prostitutes and their children. However, the subject matter 'Social Defence' falls in the State Sector. Government of India is not proposing to construct shelters (Ashrams) for prostitutes. However, a scheme for Strengthening of Protective Homes run under the Immoral Traffic Prevention Act in the States/Union Territories was formulated as part of observance of 1990 as the SAARC Year of the Girl Child. A sum of Rs. 18.56 lakhs was released as a one-time assistance to the Central Social Welfare Board for strengthening 16 Protective Homes in 11 States and the Union Territory of Delhi.

[*Translation*]

AREA UNDER FOREST IN BIHAR

114. SHRI RAMASHRAY PRASAD SINGH : Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) the area under forest in Bihar;

(b) whether some part of the forest land has been used for developmental purposes;

(c) if so, the area of forest land in the state which has been converted into irrigated land; and

(d) the steps taken for the conservation of forest land in Bihar ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI KAMAL NATH) : (a) Recorded forest area in Bihar is 29232 Sq. Km.

(b) and (c) Information is available in terms of the diversion of forest land for various non-forest purposes, including for development projects, irrigation projects etc. According to information readily available 2981 hectares of forest land was diverted for non-forestry purposes in Bihar since the enactment of the Forest (Conservation) Act 1980. Out of this an area of 382 hectares related to irrigation projects, including submergence under impounded waters.

(d) Among the various steps being taken/initiated in Bihar for conservation of forests are more stringent enforcement of the provision of the Indian Forest Act and the Forest (Conservation) Act, implementation of Social Forestry or agro-forestry projects to meet increasing demand for fuel and fodder and timber so as to reduce pressure on forests, implementation of afforestation programmes to improve tree cover in degraded forest lands, increased patrolling by mobile armed squads and constitution of village committees for forest protection and management.

Employment Card to Labourers

115. SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN : Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to issue employment card and provide pro-

vident fund facilities to each labourer whether he is a daily wage earner or employed on temporary basis; and

(b) if so, the action taken in the matter ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI K. RAMAMURTHY) : (a) and (b) There is no proposal at present to issue employment card. The Employees' Provident Funds Scheme, 1952 was however, amended in October, 1990 and the requirement of three months continuous service or sixty days of actual work for membership of the provident fund was done away altogether. Now all the workers, including daily wage earners, are eligible for membership of the provident fund from the first day of employment in the coverable establishment.

[English]

CRITERIA FOR SETTING UP OF CENTRAL UNIVERSITIES

116. SHRI BHAGEY GOBARDHAN : Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) the criteria adopted for setting up of Central Universities by the Government;

(b) the list of the existing Central Universities; and

(c) the details of proposals for setting up of new Central Universities now under examination of Government ?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI ARJUN SINGH) : (a) to (c) At present, there are ten Central Universities in the country as indicated below :—

- (1) Aligarh Muslim University.
- (2) Banaras Hindu University.
- (3) University of Delhi.
- (4) University of Hyderabad.
- (5) Jawaharlal Nehru University.
- (6) North Eastern Hill University.

(7) Pondicherry University.

(8) Visva Bharati.

(9) Jamia Millia Islamia.

(10) Indira Gandhi National Open University.

Acts to set up new Central Universities in Assam and Nagaland have also been passed by Parliament in 1989. However, notification to give effect to the Acts have not been issued.

Central Universities are established by Acts of Parliament. These Universities have been set up in response to certain historical, cultural and Central-State considerations. Central Government does not generally favour setting up of new Central Universities and expects that the State Governments themselves should take steps for improvement of standards of their universities.

Central Governments have been receiving suggestions from various quarters from time to time to set up new Central Universities in different States' Regions of the country. However, in view of the Government policy and severe constraint of resources, Government has not taken a decision to start any new Central University.

CONSTRUCTION OF BUILDINGS FOR KENDRIYA VIDYALAYAS IN ORISSA

117. SHRI BHAGEY GOBARDHAN : Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) the names of Kendriya Vidyalayas in Orissa for which school buildings are yet to be constructed ?

(b) the reasons for delay in the construction of school buildings; and

(c) the steps taken to-date for expediting the process of construction ?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI ARJUN SINGH) : (a) and (b) School Buildings of the following 8 Kendriya Vidyalayas in Orissa are yet to be constructed.