

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2463
ANSWERED ON:14.03.2006
GRANTS TO SHS
Gadakh Shri Tukaram Gangadhar

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

- (a) whether Government of Maharashtra had requested the Central Government to provide the State with financial assistance to enable it to grant incentives to Secondary and Higher Secondary students participating in Olympiads in different science subjects;
- (b) if so, the details of the scheme suggested and the extent of incentive sought; and
- (c) the extent of financial assistance granted for the scheme this year?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI M.A.A. FATMI)

(a) to (c): A proposal was received from the Government of Maharashtra for giving grants to to SSC/HSC Boards, at the rate of Rs. Five lakh per student selected from such Boards, to represent India in Olympiads held every year in various fields viz. Mathematics, Physics, Chemistry and Biology etc. According to the proposal, grants would be utilized by the Boards to develop infrastructure for grooming students for these Olympiads.

It was felt that since the issue of quality has been receiving considerable attention over the years and from the perspective currently accepted, it would be preferable to look at quality as a systematic concern. This implies that attention should be focused on improvement of teaching in classroom across the board, rather than in terms of preparing students for special or competitive events. It is true that students' performance in such events brings a momentary glory, but preparation for such events do not add significantly to the overall quality of the system. Therefore, the proposal has not been found suitable for implementation in the present framework.