

Vidyalayas introduced in July '98 has been struck down by the Hon'ble High Court of Delhi as violative of Article 14 of the Constitution.

The guidelines for admission in Kendriya Vidyalayas inter-alia provide that the admission of the children of transferable Central Government employees including defence personnel who die in harness, and of Members of Parliament (including their dependent grand children), Kendriya Vidyalaya Sangathan employees and employees of Special Protection Group/National Security Guard would be over and above the prescribed existing class size.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

[English]

Conservation of Forests in Manipur

1200. KUMARI KIM GANGTE : Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state :

(a) the amount of money sanctioned by the Union Government to the State of Manipur during the year 1997-98 and 1998-99;

(b) the amount utilised by the State Government for the preservation and conservation of Forests;

(c) whether forest areas in the State are getting depleted due to the failure of the forest department in the State to safeguard the forest wealth;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the action proposed to be taken by the Union Government to ensure that the forests are properly protected in the State?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI BABU LAL MARANDI) : (a) and (b) In the period 1997-98, 1998-99 a sum of Rs. 422.21 lakhs has been released to the Government of Manipur from the afforestation schemes of the Ministry of Environment and Forests. As per the progress reports received from the State Government so far, the utilisation is Rs. 371.43 lakhs.

(c) and (d) The State of Forest Report (SFR) is published every two years by the Forest Survey of India. SFR 1997 shows a decrease in forest cover in 140 sq.km. as compared to the 1995 assessment. A major causal factor is shifting cultivation.

(e) An Integrated Forest Protection Scheme is under consideration.

Irregularities in Utilisation of Funds

1201. SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA : Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether huge amount is being sanctioned for running voluntary educational institutions, adult educational institutions, night class for old persons, cultural and social centres etc. throughout the country;

(b) if so, whether in many of the said cases only boards exist and impart of education and culture is totally missing;

(c) is so, the details thereof, State-wise;

(d) whether the Government have any mechanism to monitor such schemes; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT AND MINISTER OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (e) Schemes generally have inbuilt mechanisms for appraisal of proposals received from voluntary agencies prior to sanction and also for subsequent monitoring. Besides, there is provision for inspection by Central and State Agencies. Any voluntary organisation receiving financial assistance from the Government is required to submit utilisation certificates and also audited statements which are scrutinised before any further releases are considered.

Shifting of UGC Southern Regional Office

1202. SHRI K. YERRANNAIDU : Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is a proposal to shift UGC Southern Regional Office presently located at Hyderabad;

(b) if so, the reason therefor; and

(c) the time by which it is likely to be done?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT AND MINISTER OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI) : (a) to (c) According to the information furnished by UGC, the Commission do not have plans to shift the South Regional Office at Hyderabad if the State Government of Andhra Pradesh agrees to provide the physical facilities, as agreed by it earlier.