

is up by 8—10 per cent. The whole Kulti plant will become viable, particularly after the VRS. Why don't you reconsider the whole thing? What are you doing? He has mentioned about joint venture. What efforts are you making for joint venture? On the one hand, you are saying that you are closing down, on the other hand you are saying that you are trying for a joint venture. Have you taken one single step for asking for a joint venture from anywhere in the world? If not, will you, at least, do it now?

SHRI BRAJ KISHORE TRIPATHY: Madam, so many efforts have been made for joint venture. Three parties had shown interest for joint venture. Only the TPE of Russia was left after 4-5 years' exercise. So, nobody can say that there have been no efforts from the Government side or the SAIL side or the IISCO side. In spite of all these things, I have already told, hon. Prime Minister—during his visit to Russia—had personally made a proposal with the highest level authority of Russia to help TPE to do investment in IISCO. So, the Government is quite serious for a joint venture. But nobody is coming forward. We cannot keep on waiting. So, this is the package—with the recommendation of SAIL—that has been accepted. But the Government is still looking for a joint venture. ...*(Interruptions)*... But the Government is still looking forward for joint ventures. ...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA: †He is your Governor. *(Interruptions)* He wanted to take over IISCO. *(Interruptions)*. Why don't you...

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Don't bring the Governor into it. *(Interruptions)* Don't bring his name. It will not go on record. *(Interruptions)* He might have been a businessman or an industrialist before, but now he is the Governor. So, please, don't bring his name. *(Interruptions)* I have got so many names here, but I don't think any answers are coming, so, I move on to the next question.

### Accountability of NCERT

\*84. SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether NCERT is accountable to the Central Government only; and

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†Not recorded.

(b) whether most of the State Governments expressed lack of confidence in the NCERT at the recent meeting of its General Body; if so, what changes Government intend to make in the functioning of NCERT?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI): (a) and (b) A statement is laid on the table of the House.

***Statement***

NCERT is an autonomous body of the Ministry of Human Resource Development. It is registered under the Societies Registration Act (Act XXI of 1860). The objects of the Council, as enumerated in the Memorandum of Association (MoA) are to assist and advise the Ministry of Human Resource Development in the implementation of its policies and major programmes in the field of education, particularly school education. The MoA also stipulates that for realization of these objectives, the Council may, amongst other programmes and activities, advise the State Governments and other educational organizations and institutions on matters relating to school education. Annual Accounts of the NCERT are audited by the C & AG. Annual Accounts, Audit Report and Annual Report, after they are approved by the General Body of the council, are laid on the Tables of both the Houses of Parliament by Central Government.

The State Government representatives did not express a 'lack of confidence' in the NCERT in the recent meeting of its General Body. The various activities and programme of the NCERT were discussed and State representatives and other members of the Council shared their experiences and gave several suggestions. Some of the members also appreciated the work of the NCERT. There were, however, some reservations on procedural aspects of the recently released National Curriculum Framework for School Education. There is no proposal under consideration to make any changes in the functioning of the NCERT.

SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO: Madam, Deputy Chairman, the hon. Minister has economised the truth. Let me put it this way, the truth has been economised to such an extent that it is absent from this particular reply. The hon. Minister has said that the State Government representatives did not express a 'lack of confidence' in the NCERT in the recent meeting of its General Body. What actually happened in this. In the 38th Annual General Meeting of the NCERT which was held on 26th May, 2002,

16 Ministers of the State Government, out to 21 Minister, staged a walk out and gave a statement condemning and saying that the Minister himself—see, such a strong statement was given—misled the Parliament while replying to the Calling Attention on 28th August, 2001. They also said that the NCERT had misled the Supreme Court by saying that the State Governments were supporting the National Curriculum Framework. Now, in this situation, I would like to know from the hon. Minister what steps he is going to take to get the concurrence of the State Government. Education comes under the concurrent List. So, you cannot do these things in a unilateral manner or in a surreptitious manner. What steps are you going to take to get the concurrence of the State Government Education Ministers to reconstitute CAGE, which is the proper instrument? As per the Supreme Court order itself, in April, they were directed to consult CAGE, before finalising this National Curriculum Framework. What are you going to do?

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Do you want an answer or do you want to continue?

SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO: I want to listen to the Minister.

DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI: Madam, the issue is this. In the 38th meeting, which the hon. Member has referred to, they said that the meeting of the CAGE should have been convened. We have informed them that the matter is pending before the hon. Supreme Court. We also told them that after the final adjudication of the matter, whatever decision is taken, we will follow it. Till then, the matter is at rest. We informed them that all these documents about which they were raising an objection, have been sent to them, have been given to them, and were discussed at various levels. For the first time in the history of curriculum-making, more than 1400 people were consulted, including all the State Ministers, all the Union Ministers and Leaders of all political parties. We received a large number of suggestions, and they were incorporated in the final document and the final document was again circulated. We did not receive any objection from any Minister or from any Government. Thereafter, the document was again circulated. Therefore, a question was raised as to what is this CAGE. We also informed them that it was not functioning since 1994. No Government has cared to appoint CAGE after 1994. Therefore, CAGE became dysfunctional. Most of the members of CAGE

and the Education Ministers were informed of all these things. And the State Educational Research and Training Committee had discussed all these things. More than 12 seminars were organised all over the country. And the document was kept on website also. It was sent to all the editors of the newspapers.

As far as the consultation spectrum is concerned, it has been the widest consultation ever done in the history of curriculum making in this country. And, thereafter also, I made a statement in this very august House that if this curriculum framework defers or is opposed to the 1986 policy of the government or the constitution of India, we will remove all those portions and, especially. ...*(Interruptions)*... Let me tell you ...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO: The Supreme Court had directed this Government ...*(Interruptions)*...

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Questions Hour is over.

## WRITTEN ANSWERS TO STARRED QUESTIONS

### AICTE approval to BITM course

\*81. SHRI ANIL SHARMA: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Bachelor of Information Technology and Management (BITM) Course of Utkal University, Orissa is approved by AICTE and UGC;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI): (a) to (c) BITM is not a specified degree interms of Section 22(3) of the UGC Act. As informed by Utkal University, it had launched a three-year degree course in Information Technology and Management from the academic session 2000-2001. This course is run by Directorate of Distance and Continuing Education of the University through its approved study centres. Utkal University also requested UGC to approve it.