

host of home equipments like CFLs, tube lights, clinical thermometers, etc. In order to assist the Task Force, a technical committee under the chairman ship of Chairman, Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) was also constituted which has already submitted its report to the Task Force. The task force is addressing the following issues:—

- Administrative mechanism for the collection, transportation, treatment/recycling and disposal of the used lamps generated at consumer level.
- Legislative issues and Fiscal Incentives for effecting proper management of mercury at consumer level.
- Roles and responsibilities of various Government & non-Government agencies, FL Manufacturers, and consumers, etc.

Hindi Granth Academies

†*398. SHRI LAXMINARAYAN SHARMA: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the purpose of establishment of Hindi Granth Academies in various States and what has been done by each of them;

(b) the names of the Academies against which complaints have been received and what action has been taken thereon; and

(c) what steps would be taken to improve and cleanse the administration of such Academies, particularly in Madhya Pradesh and Bihar?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCES DEVELOPMENT (SHRI ARJUN SINGH): (a) The Hindi Granth Academies (HGA) were set up for the purpose of preparation of Hindi textbooks including through translation from English textbooks and other teaching materials in Hindi language, required by the Universities and the HGAs have been attending to the above work since their inception. The HGAs are under the administrative control of the respective State/UT Govt. However, the Union Govt. through the Commission for Scientific and Technical Terminology (CSTT), New Delhi, provides some financial assistance to the HGAs under the University Level Book Production Scheme.

(b) A complaint was received regarding a book titled 'Bihar Ka Bhugol' which was examined by the CSTT in consultation with the Bihar Hindi Granth Academy where after a reply was sent to the complainant.

(c) The HGAs come under the administrative control of the respective State/UT Govt.

Measures for regulation of higher education

†*399. SHRI PYARELAL KHANDELWAL: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is formulating any scheme to check the arbitrariness of private schools and to control the intrusion of private and foreign institutions in higher education;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government is considering to give more powers to UGC and to constitute any Commission in this regard; and

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI ARJUN SINGH): (a) to (d) The incorporation, regulation and winding up of private Universities is within the competence of the State Legislatures. However, in order to maintain the standards of higher education, the UGC (Establishment of and Maintenance of Standards in Private Universities) Regulations, 2003 were issued in 2003 and are presently in force.

At present, only the All India Council for Technical Education (AICTE) has framed regulations, which were last revised in the year 2005, for the entry and operation of foreign universities/institutions for imparting technical education in India. A legislative proposal for regulating the entry and operation of foreign educational institutions, in India is under consideration of the Government.

A Review Committee has been constituted by Government under the chairmanship of Prof. Yash Pal, former Chairman, University Grants Commission to review the functioning of the University Grants Commission and the All India Council for Technical Education in the wake of the changes in higher, professional and technical education in India and demands of a new knowledge economy.

Prices of soft drinks

*400. SHRI TARIQ ANWAR: Will the Minister of FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that prices of soft drinks are very high in proportion to their cost;
- (b) if so, the reasons therefor;
- (c) whether Government has enquired about it through any committee; and
- (d) if so, what is the report of that committee?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES (SHRI SUBODH KANT SAHAY): (a) and (b) The prices of non-essential commodities, including soft drinks, are governed by market forces. No abnormal rise in the prices of soft drinks has come to the notice of the Government.

(c) and (d) No committee has been appointed for the purpose by this Ministry.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO UNSTARRED QUESTIONS

Subsidy scheme for development of mega food parks

2792. SHRIMATI SUPRTYA SULE:
SHRI GIREESH KUMAR SANGHI:

Will the Minister of FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

- (a) whether, in a bid to boost the food processing industries, Government is considering a Rs. 1,500 crore subsidy scheme for development of mega food parks across the country;
- (b) if so, whether as per the proposal, the food parks would be developed by a Special Purpose Vehicle (SPV), jointly by Central Government, the State Governments and the private sector; and