

(iii) to provide an alternative to those pursuing higher education.

Under the Scheme, financial assistance is extended to the States/UTs for implementation of vocational education programme at + 2 level. The Scheme also provides for financing innovative vocational programmes of shorter duration by Non-Governmental Organisations (NGOs).

The revision of vocational curriculum and instructional material to suit the requirements of the industry is being made from time to time. Linkages between schools and the industry are also being strengthened. Apprenticeship scheme has been extended to vocational pass-outs to strengthen the skills developed and to provide on the job experience. During the training, a stipend of Rs. 900/- per month is paid for a period of one year to the trainees. Steps are being taken to improve the quality and popularise the Vocational Education Programme amongst students, parents and public at large.

Incident in working Women Hostel in New Delhi

4355. SHRI C.O. POULOSE : Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news-item appeared in the Hindu on February 28, 2000 about the incident of throwing out Dr. Archana Saxena, author of nearly a dozen books for children, from the hostel for Working Women on Bhagwan Das Road in New Delhi, on the road; and

(b) if so, what steps have been taken in this regard when a hapless woman has been virtually on the roads for more than a week now and desperately seeking justice?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI SUMITRA MAHAJAN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The matter was enquired into by the Delhi Government who found that Dr. Archana Saxena was discharged from the hostel for working women, Bhagwan Das Road because she was not working anywhere and her period of allotment was over.