

(c) whether India has placed before the meeting any national Plan of Action, as drafted by the National Commission for Women, and if so, what was the response of other SAARC countries thereto?

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

(b) The meeting considered the Working paper prepared by Government of India, based on inputs received from Member States, for the purpose of negotiating the Draft Convention on preventing and combating trafficking in women and children for prostitution. The Draft as adopted in the meeting seeks to harmonize the country laws so as to provide stringent punishment for trafficking and traffickers and ensure that aggravating circumstances are taken care with higher penalties; to lay down the forms of mutual legal assistance which may be sought by a member country from another member country like taking evidence, obtaining statements, provision of documents etc. and promote cooperation among the member countries so that they may effectively deal with the problem. The Draft Convention provides for agreement to extradite alleged offenders on request failing which they should be prosecuted in the territory where the offender is present. Measures for prevention, care, treatment, rehabilitation and repatriation of victims are also to be taken by the signatories to the Convention when it comes into force.

(c) The meeting was informed about the National Plan of Action to Combat Trafficking and Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Women and Children prepared and adopted by the Government of India.

Mahila Samakhya Programme (MSP)

3473. SHRI AHMED PATEL: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are implementing Mahila Samakhya Programme (MSP) in some districts of the State of Gujarat;

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith objectives and names of districts;

(c) whether Government have evaluated the MSPs success in the State;

(d) if so, the results thereof;

(e) whether Government propose to cover all the districts of the State under MSP; and

(f) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir, The Mahila Samakhya Programme is currently being implemented in Gujarat in 999 villages in 4 districts, viz., Banaskantha, Baroda, Rajkot, Sabarkantha. In 1998, the programme has expanded to Godhra (Panchmahal) & Surendranagar districts.

The basic objective of the Mahila Samakhya Programme is empowerment of women through education. The other objectives include to enhance the self image and self confidence of women; to create an environment where women seek knowledge and information and thereby play a positive role in their own development and that of the Society.

(c) As part of the National Evaluation done in 1993 and the Indo-Dutch Joint Evaluation conducted in January 1997, the Mahila Samakhya Programme in Gujarat was also evaluated.

(d) The evaluations have commended the programme for laying a foundation of a grassroots level women's movement. In Gujarat, the evaluations have noted the effectiveness of the MS strategy in being able to reach out to the most marginalised women at the village level and in being able to mobilise and organise women around issues like women's health, political participation, women and law, women's literacy. In Gujarat, Sangha women have been able to effectively

create a demand for education and in many cases assist in or directly manage local level educational facilities like the MSK, NFE & ECCE centres.

The MS programme in Baroda & Rajkot districts has trained village women in legal procedure and three Nari Adalats have been set up to address problems like domestic violence, marital problems etc. So far, the Nari Adalats in Baroda have handled about 200 cases.

The evaluation has appreciated the effective leadership role that women are playing at the village level and in the Panchayat bodies to which they have been elected. In Gujarat, 248 women from the Sanghas have been elected to various Panchayati Raj bodies.

(c) and (f) During the 9th Five Year Plan, it is proposed to expand the programme in additional four districts. During 1998, the programme has expanded to two new districts.

Mahila Samakhyas are a process oriented programme which seeks to mobilise, organise and empower poor women. Human Resource Development is critical to achieving the programme's objectives. Since this is an intensive process, there are constraints in going to scale to cover the whole State.

अजमेर में यूथ होस्टल स्थापित करना

3474. श्री ओंकार सिंह लखावत: क्या मानव संसाधन विकास मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि:

(क) क्या सरकार ने अजमेर में एक "यूथ होस्टल" स्थापित करने के लिए निधियों की मंजूरी दी है; यदि हां, तो किस तिथि को और कितनी राशि मंजूर की है;

(ख) क्या अजमेर में "यूथ होस्टल" का निर्माण शुरू हो चुका है; यदि नहीं, तो उसके क्या कारण हैं; और

(ग) क्या सरकार के पास जन प्रतिनिधियों ने यूथ होस्टल के अजमेर में निर्माण हेतु वैकल्पिक सुझाव दिया है; यदि हां, तो उसका ब्यौरा क्या है?

मानव संसाधन विकास मंत्रालय में राज्य मंत्री (कुमारी उमा भारती): (क) जी नहीं।

(ख) जी नहीं। चूंकि लागत अनुमान और प्राथमिक नक्शे आदि नहीं भेजे गए हैं, इसलिए इस प्रस्ताव पर कार्रवाई करना संभव नहीं हो पाया।

(ग) जी हां। "सम्राट पृथ्वीराज चौहान खेल नगर" में युवा छात्रावास के निर्माण हेतु एक सुझाव दिया गया है। तथापि, युवा छात्रावास का निर्माण केन्द्र और राज्य सरकारों के बीच एक संयुक्त उद्यम है जिसके अंतर्गत राज्य सरकार निःशुल्क विकसित भूमि उपलब्ध कराती है और केन्द्र सरकार इसके निर्माण हेतु धनराशि उपलब्ध कराती है। राज्य सरकार से ऐसा कोई प्रस्ताव प्राप्त नहीं हुआ है।

Functioning of ICHR

3475. SHRIMATI KAMLA SINHA: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the projects undertaken by the Indian Council of Historical Research, an official agency for documentation and promoting Indian History, in the last twenty years are yet to be completed;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the reasons for non-completion of the projects;

(d) whether Government have made any assessment of the working of the ICHR and its dismal performance;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) the steps contemplated by Government in the matter?

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

(b) The details are enclosed in statement (see below).

(c) According to the information furnished by ICHR, the two main reasons for non-completion of the projects in time are, (i) non-availability of some of the documents in India and (ii) the Editors of a series of ten volumes of a particular project working in honorary capacity.