

medium schools which in reality are 'teaching shops' in Delhi and other parts of the country;

(b) whether Government propose to take any steps to exercise some control over such schools and prevent them from charging exorbitant fees and other dues;

(c) if so, the details of such steps; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI MUHI RAM SAIKIA): (a) to (d) The Government of National Capital Territory of Delhi have informed that schools including the English medium ones are regulated under the provisions of the Delhi School Education Act and Rules, 1973.

Section 17(3) of Delhi School Education Act, 1973 provides that—"the Manager of every recognised school shall, before the commencement of each academic session, file with the Director a full statement of fees to be levied by such schools during the ensuing academic session and except with the prior approval of the Director, no such school shall charge, during the academic session, any fee in excess of the fee specified by its Manager."

State Governments have their own regulatory mechanism for management of schools.

Submission of Report by Rastogi Commission

70. SHRI O.P. KOHLI: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether several organisations of the University teachers of Delhi have urged the Rastogi Pay Commission of the UGC to submit its report without any further delay;

(b) if so, the time by which the Commission will submit its report; and

(c) whether the Commission will keep in view the genuine demands and grievances of the University teachers while finalising its report?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI MUHI RAM SAIKIA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Rastogi Pay Committee is likely to submit its report to University Grants Commission (UGC) by 31st March, 1997.

(c) Yes, Sir.

Criteria for Admission in Open Universities

71. SHRI AKHILESH DÄS: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the number of Open Universities in the country, the places at which they have been functioning and how many of them are in Uttar Pradesh;

(b) the number of students in these Universities including Indira Gandhi National Open University (IGNOU), together with the details of students of India and other developing countries; and

(c) the criteria fixed for admission in these Universities?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI MUHI RAM SAIKIA): (a): At present, the following eight Open Universities have been established in the country:

National Level

1. Indira Gandhi National Open University, New Delhi.

State Level

2. Dr. B.R. Ambedkar Open University, Hyderabad, Andhra Pradesh.
3. Yashwantrao Chavan Maharashtra Open University, Nasik Maharashtra.
4. Kota Open University, Kota, Rajasthan.
5. Nalanda Open University, Patna, Bihar.
6. M.P. Bhoj Open University, Bhopal, M.P.

7. **Babasaheb. Ambedkar Open University, Ahmedabad, Gujarat.**

8. **Karnataka State Open University, Mysore, Karnataka.**

There is no Open University in the State of Uttar Pradesh.

(b) The number of students registered during 1996-97 in four functional Open Universities are given below:

No. of students registered during 1996-97	
Indira Gandhi National Open University—	1,30,354
DR. B.R. Ambedkar Open University—	79,759
Yashwant Rao Chavan Maharashtra Open University—	54,508
Kota Open University—	7,568
Total	2,72,189

The other four Open Universities are in the process of launching academic programmes and have no students on their rolls presently. At present the operations of IGNOU are within the country. In IGNOU, however, there is a special programme called the Rajiv Gandhi Fellowship Programme jointly operated by the Rajiv Gandhi Foundation and Commonwealth of Learning, Vancouver, Canada seeking to provide advance training to Distance Educators from the developing Commonwealth Countries. The programme involves conferment of Post Graduate diploma and Master of Arts in Distance Education. During the current academic session 101 Scholars from 17 such countries are undergoing training under this programme.

(c) Open Universities offer a variety of Programmes such as Professional, Vocational, Technical and General Programmes at Certificate, Diploma, Graduate and Post-graduate level. The number of programmes on offer during 1996-97 are 127. Admission to General Programmes at graduate level is open to (a) those who have passed 10 + 2 examination and (b) those who do not have any formal qualifications but have attached the age of 20 and passed to eligibility test. Admission to professional Programme is usually through entrance test.

Female Infanticide in Tamil Nadu

72. **SHRIMATI JAYAPRADA NAHATA: SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY:**

Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether prevalence of female infanticide is in vogue in Tamil Nadu and in various parts of the country;

(b) if so, whether any study has been conducted of the extent and the reasons for this deplorable practice; and

(c) if so, the details thereof and the steps proposed to be taken to stop this practice?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI S.R. BOMMAI) (a) to (c) The Department of Women and Child Development has sponsored seven independent sample studies in nine states viz. Andhra Pradesh, Bihar, Gujarat, Haryana, Madhya Pradesh, Punjab, Rajasthan, Tamil Nadu and Uttar Pradesh to assess the size and magnitude of the problem of female infanticide. Reports received have revealed that female infanticide is practiced amongst a few communities and in certain pockets of the country. Infanticide is a crime under the Indian Penal Code. The persons found involved in such acts are proceeded against under the law. The Central Government has also enacted the Pre-natal Diagnostic Techniques (Regulation and Prevention of Misuse) Act, 1994 to curb the misuse of pre-natal diagnostic techniques for determination of the sex of the foetus leading to female foeticide. Besides, various programmes of action and advocacy are being implemented by the Government in the country for the welfare and development of women and the girl child. Attempts are also being made to project a positive images of the girl child so as to bring about changes in societal attitudes towards them. The Government has also initiated a media campaign to generate awareness on various issues relating to the girl child. A National Plan of Action for the SAARC Decade (1991-2000 A.D.) for the Girl Child focussing on survival, protection and development of the girl child has been formulated. A special set of interventions for