

Medical Council of India (MCI), Dental Council of India (DCI), Bar Council of India (BCI) etc. should be divested of their academic functions and the universities be made responsible for the academic content of all courses and programmes of study including professional courses. It has been further recommended that the proposed NCHER may have a seven member board with a full time chairperson.

(c) and (d) The need for an overarching regulatory body in higher education has been accepted by the Government as one of its priorities and its functions are yet to be finalised as the report is under consideration and no time limit can be prescribed at present.

Part time engagements of school teachers

2670. SHRI VARINDER SINGH BAJWA: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a large number of school teachers in Primary/Middle schools in the country are acting as extra departmental employees of the department of posts and quite a good number of teachers are engaged in other activities such as insurance business etc. which results in decline of teaching standard; and

(b) if so, whether the Central Government would consult the State Governments and evolve a mechanism to ensure that teachers in schools are prohibited from such activities so that school education does not suffer?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): (a) As per the circular issued by Department of Posts, school teachers may be appointed as extra departmental branch Post Master, only in exceptional circumstances with the personal approval of Post Master General, when suitable candidates belonging to unemployed youth are not available or coming forward for appointment as extra departmental branch Post Master. Further, these appointments are made only if the working hours of school and post offices do not clash. The teachers are not being engaged for Postal Life Insurance work in any way either part time or full time.

(b) The Right of Children to Free and Compulsory Education Bill, 2009 provides that no teacher shall be deployed for any non-educational purposes other than the decennial population census, disaster relief duties, or duties relating to elections to the local authority or The State Legislatives or Parliament. The said Bill was passed by the Rajya Sabha on 20-7-2009.

Modernization of madarasas

†2671. SHRI AMIR ALAM KHAN: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is formulating any scheme for modernization of madarasas and traditional schools of Islamic education;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

- (c) the number of madarsas in the country and the funds required for their modernization;
- (d) the funds spent or sanctioned for the maintenance of these madarsas during 2008-09;
- (e) the amount allocated for maintenance of these madarsas during 2009-10; and
- (f) by when Government would complete the modernization of all these madarsas?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): (a) to (f) The erstwhile Area Intensive and Madarsas Modernization Programme has been reformulated in November 2008 into the Scheme for Providing Quality Education in Madarsas (SPQEM) to encourage traditional institutions like Madrassas and Maktabas to introduce Science, Mathematics, Social Studies, Language and English in their curriculum on a voluntary basis so that children studying in these institutions gain academic proficiency. The details of the various components of revised scheme of SPQEM are given in the enclosed Statement (*See below*). An outlay of Rs. 325 crore has been earmarked under the scheme in the Eleventh Plan period covering an estimated 6000 madarsas in the country. An amount of Rs. 64.42 crore was released during 2008-09 and an amount of Rs. 50.00 crore has been allocated for the year 2009-10 under the Scheme.

Statement

The details of financial assistance provided under various components of revised scheme for Providing Quality Education in Madrassas (SPQEM) are as follows:

- i) For appointment of teachers teaching Science, Mathematics, Social Studies, Languages, Computer Application and Science subject to availability of a minimum of ten students in each subject, each full time Graduate teacher will be paid salary for 12 months @ Rs.6000/- p.m., and Post Graduate/B.Ed. Rs.12000/- p.m. State Governments/Madrassa Boards would ensure that larger Madrassas with higher student enrolment recruit better qualified teachers.
- ii) For strengthening libraries/book banks and providing teaching learning materials at primary/middle/secondary and senior secondary levels, one time assistance upto Rs.50,000/- followed by an annual grant of Rs.5000/- will be provided to each Madrassa.
- iii) For purchase of Science Kits, Maths Kits, and other essential pedagogical equipment for teaching modern subjects a grant upto a maximum amount of Rs.15000/- will be provided.
- iv) For establishment of Science/Computer Labs/work shops in Madrassas at the Secondary/Senior Secondary levels upto the maximum of Rs. 100000 for each of the labs followed by an annual grant of Rs. 5000/- for maintenance/purchase of consumables.
- v) For conducting in service teacher training programmes for the teachers appointed under the scheme in madrassas to upgrade their pedagogical skills. Training will be arranged in groups by SCERTs/DIETs/VRCs etc. and the funds for this purpose will be provided to the training

institution through the State Government. Rs. 100/- per day per teacher trainee for a maximum of 15 days training, will be paid to the training institution to cover training expenses and TA/DA of the trainee teacher.

- vi) For registration fees, examination fees and cost of study materials supplied by the National Institute of Open Schooling (NIOS) upto 100% for each student opting for studying through NIOS at secondary and senior secondary level.
- vii) Madrassas can also opt for vocational courses offered by NIOS after fulfilling norms and standards set by NIOS. The registration fees would be met from the scheme as in (vi) above. There will be linkages of madrassas with industry, I.T.I.s set up by the Ministry of Labour and Employment etc. which are in the vicinity, for use of workshops and for promoting employment opportunities.
- viii) For State Madrasa Boards opting for assistance, to strengthen their capacity to monitor the SPQEM, by providing recurring financial assistance of Rs. 5.00 lakh per year for each Madrasa Board. The assistance will be for appointment of qualified & competent staff; computerization of office; office equipments, research & evaluation, and awareness generation amongst the muslim community for participation in education.

Arbitrarily charging of fees in private schools

†2672. DR. PRABHA THAKUR: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government considers arbitrarily charging of fees from the guardians of children by many private schools in India as justified;
- (b) if so, the reasons therefor;
- (c) if not, whether Government has formulated any policy to fix a limit of the fees of the schools;
- (d) if so, the details thereof; and
- (e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) and (d) No, Sir. The Affiliation Bye-Laws of Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE), *inter-alia*, prescribe the following:-

- (i) Fees charges should be commensurate with the facilities provided by the institutions.
- (ii) Fees should normally be charged under the heads prescribed by the Department of Education of the State/UT for schools of different categories.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.