

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 madarsas**

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 madarsas and traditional schools of Islamic education;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

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Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.