

(e) the funds to be allocated for this purpose; and

(f) in what way the recruitment would be made?

THE MINISTER OF OVERSEAS INDIAN AFFAIRS (SHRI VAYALAR RAVI): (a) It is proposed to have four more PIO/NRI universities besides the one to be set up at Bangaluru by the Manipal Academy of Higher Education Trust (MAHET).

(b) The task of setting up the first PIO/NRI university at Bangaluru has been entrusted to the Manipal Academy of Higher Education Trust (MAHET).

(c) and (d) Yes, Sir. It is proposed to earmark 50% seats for children of overseas Indians.

(e) No funds allocation from Government is envisaged for the project.

(f) The universities will have complete autonomy within a broad framework.

Package for Gulf returnees

57. SHRI P. RAJEEVE:

SHRI ABDUL WAHAB PEEVEE:

Will the Minister of OVERSEAS INDIAN AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is specific package proposal for the benefit of the jobless returnees from Gulf countries;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the conditions to be fulfilled for deriving benefit from the package?

THE MINISTER OF OVERSEAS INDIAN AFFAIRS (SHRI VAYALAR RAVI): (a) to (c) There is no scheme at present. No proposals have also been received from any of the State Governments. However, the Indian Council for Overseas Employment (ICOE), an autonomous organization under the Ministry is conducting a study in the matter, and on receipt of the report, appropriate interventions will be considered.

Universities for PIOs

58. SHRI VIJAY JAWAHARLAL DARDA:

SHRI N.K. SINGH:

Will the Minister of OVERSEAS INDIAN AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether his Ministry has decided to review its plans to take the deemed university route to set up five universities for Persons of Indian Origin (PIOs);

(b) if so, whether his Ministry wants to bypass UGC guidelines for setting up the universities and also to keep away Ministry of Human Resource Development; and

(c) if so, the time by which such universities are likely to be set up and in what manner the control on such universities would be exercised?

THE MINISTER OF OVERSEAS INDIAN AFFAIRS (SHRI VAYALAR RAVI): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) The work on setting up the first PIO/NRI university will commence soon. The Ministry has constituted an Advisory Board consisting of officers from the concerned Ministries/Departments and the University Grants Commission (UGC), Medical Council of India (MCI), All India Council for Technical Education (AICTE) etc.

Steps to tackle racial attacks

59. SHRI N.K. SINGH:

SHRIMATI MOHSINA KIDWAI:

Will the Minister of OVERSEAS INDIAN AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether his Ministry and Ministry of External Affairs have jointly decided to create a permanent institutional framework to tackle the growing threat of racist attacks on young Indian students in Australia;

(b) if so, the details of the steps taken in this regard so far;

(c) whether the incidents of racist attacks on young Indian students in Australia are increasing inspite of initiative taken by Government to curb such incidents; and

(d) if so, the further reaction of Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF OVERSEAS INDIAN AFFAIRS (SHRI VAYALAR RAVI): (a) and (b) No, Sir. There is no joint decision to create a permanent institutional framework to tackle the threat of attacks on Indian students in Australia. The issue has been taken up by the Government of India with the Government of Australia at the highest levels. The Indian High Commission in Canberra and the Consulates General in Melbourne and Sydney have been following up the matter with the federal and State authorities in Australia.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

Effect on Indian workers due to recession

60. SHRI K.E. ISMAIL:

SHRI M.P. ACHUTHAN:

Will the Minister of OVERSEAS INDIAN AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware of the large scale exodus of Indian workers in Gulf countries due to the global economic slow down and recession in those countries;

(b) if so, the details of the Indian workers, State-wise, who returned to India due to loss of job since the effect of economic slow down started; and