

(e) whether there is any provision of peer review of the academic performance of these institutions; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI KAPIL SIBAL): (a) and (b) The Central Government declares, under Section 3 of the University Grants Commission Act 1956, by notification in the Official Gazette, institutions which for historical reasons or for any other circumstances are not universities and yet are doing work of a high standard in specialized academic field comparable to a university and that granting of the status of a university would enable them to further contribute to the cause of higher education. The applicant institutions should generally be engaged in teaching programmes and research in chosen fields of specialization which are innovative and of very high academic standards at the Master's (or equivalent) and /or research levels. Institutions that are in the emerging areas with the promise of excellence could also be declared as 'deemed-to-be-universities' under the *de novo* category.

(c) to (f) According to the University Grants Commission, the performance of such institutions, including research work done by them, is assessed by the Commission, with the help of Expert Committees constituted by it. Members of the Expert Committees are chosen from relevant disciplines, and the Committees make 'on the spot assessments' of the applicant institutions and give their report on the basis of various parameters, including academic and research infrastructure and financial position of the institutions.

Teaching of Urdu in Schools

*60. DR. EJAZ ALI: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether convents and private schools force Muslim students to study Sanskrit;

(b) the status of implementation of Urdu as optional subject therein; and

(c) the status of availability of Urdu books/ Urdu teachers in Government- run schools and details of selection procedure thereof?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI KAPIL SIBAL): (a) No such complaint has been received by either Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE) or Council for the Indian School Certificate Examination (CISCE) in respect of schools affiliated to them.

(b) Both CBSE and CISCE offer Urdu language as a subject at secondary and senior secondary levels.

(c) National Council of Educational Research & Training (NCERT) has developed first language Urdu textbooks for classes I to XII based on National Curriculum Framework (NCF), 2005. In addition, NCERT has also published Urdu version of the text-books of other subjects for different

classes. It is for the respective State Govts. and concerned organizations to determine the selection procedure of Urdu teachers in their schools, and to ensure the availability of Urdu teachers and Urdu text-books.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO UNSTARRED QUESTIONS

272. SHRI JAI PRAKASH NARAYAN SINGH: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government is considering a proposal for upgradation and modernization of Raipur and Ranchi Airports;
- (b) if so, the details in this regard;
- (c) the amount earmarked for the modernization of these airports;
- (d) whether Government has plans to commence international flights from these airports; and
- (e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) At Raipur Airport, construction of new integrated terminal building complex including two aerobridges to cater to 700 passengers (300 international + 400 domestic) at a time, has been taken up with an estimated cost of Rs. 135.72 crores and the expected date of completion is December, 2009.

At Ranchi Airport, the work of construction of a new integrated terminal building for 700 passengers (500 domestic & 200 international) with modern amenities and two aerobridges at a cost of Rs. 137.79 crores has been taken up and the expected date of completion is March, 2010.

(d) and (e) Airports Authority of India (AAI) has provided all facilities required for operation of international flights at new Integrated Terminal Building under construction at Raipur and Ranchi airports. However, at present, there is no request from any Foreign Carrier/Airline for operation through Ranchi and Raipur airports. With regard to Indian carriers, they are free to start international operations from any point in India to the agreed international destinations as per bilateral arrangements.

Madurai Airport

273. SHRI T.T.V. DHINAKARAN: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

- (a) whether integrated terminal is being built at Madurai Airport;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) by when the terminal would be ready?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. A New Integrated Terminal Building (NITB) with modern passenger facilities like