

[3 May, 2007]

RAJYA SABHA

Activities of Indian Council for Philosophical Research

382. SHRI KALRAJ MISHRA:

SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA:

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

(a) the details of the activities of Delhi and Lucknow centres of the Indian Council for Philosophical Research and expenditure incurred at both the centres;

(b) whether it is a fact that the Lucknow centre does not have any campus and valuable assets of the centre are lying unused;

(c) whether it is also a fact that at present ICPR is not being headed by an academicians in the relevant discipline; and

(d) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI ARJUN SINGH): (a) The Council through its headquarters office- at New Delhi, organises refresher course in different parts of the country for university and college teachers of philosophy and lectures by eminent scholars of national and international repute, awards fellowships, publishes research papers, monographs and other publications and brings out its journal. Through its Lucknow centre, the Council organises lecture programmes, meets of its Fellows, seminars and workshops. The annual expenditure of the Council during the last five years was as follows:

{Rs. in lakh}			
Year	New Delhi	Lucknow	Total
2002-03	361.54	7146	433.00
2003-04	363.39	56.61	420.00
2004-05	333.70	81.80	415.50
2005-06	315.50	52.12	367.62
2006/07	374.00	76.00	450.00

(b) No Sir, the Centre functions at its campus at PCF Building, 32 Station Road, Lucknow. Some furniture and other items of its erstwhile

'guesthouse' at the earlier accommodation known as 'Butler Palace' in Lucknow, vacated due to orders of the Supreme Court of India, have been stored in the basement of the current premises.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

Misuse of funds for Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan by States

*383. SHRI C. RAMACHANDRAIAH: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have come across any misuse of funds by the States which are implementing the Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan;

(b) if so, the break-up of funds that have been embezzled, State-wise during the last three years;

(c) whether any penal action to discipline and discourage the perpetrators and also to freeze the fund disbursements to the States have been initiated;

(d) if so, the details thereof, State-wise; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI ARJUN SINGH): (a) and (b) In the light of the report on the Performance Audit of the Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan (SSA), submitted by the Comptroller & Auditor General of India in August 2006, for the period 2001-02 to 2004-05, and the examination of the points raised therein by the Government of India and State/UT SSA programmes, an amount of about Rs. 53 crores can be classified as expenditure not covered under the SSA guidelines. There has been no case of embezzlement. In cases of diversion of SSA funds for other educational purposes, the Government of India has directed States to recoup the inadmissible expenditure to the State SSA programmes.

(c) to (e) The States/UTs have already been strictly instructed to avoid recurrence of such instances in future. Government of India is monitoring the use of SSA funds through annual State/UT audits, independent concurrent financial reviews and field monitoring through 41 social science institutions.