

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI MD. ALI ASHRAF FATMI): (a) to (d) The Government of India released funds amounting to Rs. 7614.66 lakh and Rs. 6250.75 lakh during 2005-06 and 2006-07 respectively for implementation of Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan in Himachal Pradesh. The funds have been sanctioned by the Government of India based on the Annual Work Plan and Budget of the State.

Students going abroad for higher education

2896. SHRI B.K. HARIPRASAD: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether according to ASSOCHAM estimates, around 1,20,000 students go abroad for higher education causing a brain of Rs. 50,000 crore every year in foreign exchange;

(b) whether forex spent every year by Indian students abroad will suffice to set up 40 IIMs and 20 NTs in the country; and

(c) whether the country is expected to contribute 44 million people to the global labour pool over the next five years and if so, whether Government would ensure access to quality higher education and training systems in the country both for domestic and overseas students?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): (a) to (c) No record of the number of students going abroad for higher studies or expenditure incurred thereon is maintained Centrally. Indian-students and scholars do go abroad for higher studies. In the present scenario of globalization and liberalization, the movement across the national boundaries for studies and employment is not only inevitable, but also in many cases could give positive benefits to the country. It is considered neither feasible nor desirable to put in place a regulatory framework to prevent the movement aboard of students and technocrats. Quality higher education in the country is already accessibly to domestic and overseas students, subject to their fulfilling the requisite eligibility criteria.

Obesity of school children

2897. DR. M.A. RAMASWAMY: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that school children in the country getting obese due to rampant intake of junk food;

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(b) if so, whether the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare has suggested for a ban on junk food and colas in schools;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the reaction of Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI MD. ALIASHRAF FATMI): (a) to (d) There has been studies suggesting a positive correlation between consumption of food with empty calories (junk food and carbonated drinks/colas) and chronic degenerating diseases including obesity. Education being a subject in the concurrent list, most of the schools come under the jurisdiction of the State Government. Union Minister of Health & Family Welfare has written to Health Ministers of all States in August, 2006 to consider issuing instructions for withdrawing junk food and carbonated drinks from school and college canteens.

Attraction towards Western Education

†2893. SHRI JANESHWAR MISHRA:

SHRI BRIJ BHUSHAN TIWARI:

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

(a) whether Indians are getting attracted towards foreign education, culture and articles very fast;

(b) whether this is the cause for declining interest towards Indian languages, knowledge and~sense of belongingness to the country; and

(c) the measures Government are taking to check these tendencies?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): (a) to (c) Government does not collect information of this nature. According to available information, approximately 1,40,000 students go abroad for higher education each year which is a negligible percentage of the total enrolment of approximately 1.08 crores in Indian Higher Education.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.