

(b) The Investment Commission will be located within the Government (in the Ministry of Finance as decided by the Prime Minister) and will enjoy operational autonomy and Government support.

(c) The Commission will seek meetings and visit with industrial groups/ houses in India and with large companies abroad, particularly in sectors where there is a dire need for investment but adequate investment has not flowed so far. The commission will interact closely with the Boards of Directors of potential investing companies.

(d) In respect of Indian investors, the Commission would also address the issue of bridging the gap between "announcements" and "proposals" and also the gap between "proposals" and "project implementation".

(e) The Commission will endeavour to secure a certain level of investment every year and its progress will be reviewed at the end of every quarter.

(f) The Commission will make recommendations to Government both on policy and procedures to facilitate greater FDI flows into India.

Off-shore Centres of Medical Universities

*163. PROF. P.J. KURIEN: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government allows Medical Universities to establish Off-shore Centres outside the country;

(b) if so, the details of such permissions given so far;

(c) the details of applications pending in this regard, with the period of pendency in each case; and

(d) the steps Government proposes to take to clear such pending applications?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD): (a) No provision exists in the Indian Medical Council Act, 1956, for granting permission to establish off-shore campus(es) by the medical universities. The Ministry of Human Resource Development in the Government of India allows private universities and deemed to be universities, under Section 3 of the UGC Act, 1956, to establish off-shore campus(es) in foreign countries, whose procedure is regulated by the University Grants Commission (Establishment of and Maintenance of Standards in Private Universities) Regulations, 2003 after obtaining no objection from the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare in respect of medical courses.

(b) Following Deemed Universities were granted permission by the Ministry of Human Resource Development in respect of medical courses:—

(i) Sri Ramachandra Medical College and Research Institute, Chennai (in Mauritius).

(ii) Manipal Academy of Higher Education, Manipal, Karnataka (in Malaysia).

(iii) Vinayaka Mission's Research Foundation, Salem, Tamil Nadu (in Thailand).

(c) and (d) As per information provided by the Ministry of Human Resource Development, two applications for starting medical course in off shore campus are pending, namely that of Bharati Vidyapeeth, Pune, Maharashtra and Sumandeep Vidyapeeth, Vadodara, Gujarat.

Placing of MGNREGS on mission mode

*164. SHRI JAI PRAKASH NARAYAN SINGH: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government is actively considering to appoint DG rank officers to head Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (MGNREGS);

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is also a fact that Prime Minister has suggested that MGNREGS be placed on mission mode in order to implement the Scheme with proper funding; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI C.P. JOSHI): (a) No, Sir. No such proposal is under consideration.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) and (d) At present there is no such issue under consideration.

Rural indebtedness

*165. SHRI SILVIUS CONDPAN: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether he is aware of the impact of rural indebtedness on the marginal and small farmers in the country; and

(b) if so, whether any assessment of this situation would be made and relief measures would be taken?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) and (b) The Report on the "Indebtedness of Farmer Households" (NSS 59th Round) released by the National Sample Survey Organization (NSSO) in May, 2005 States that of the 89.35 million farmer households, 43.42 million farmer households (48.6%) were indebted to either formal or informal or both sources of credit.

In order to help indebted farmers, the Government in the year 2008-09, announced the Agriculture Debt Waiver and Debt Relief Scheme, 2008 (ADWDRS). The eligible small and marginal farmers were provided a complete waiver of loan as per the guidelines formulated. A total of 3.01 crore small and marginal farmers and 0.67 crore 'other farmers' were to be benefited by the ADWDRS, 2008 to the extent of Rs. 65,318.33 crore.