

Hindi in Kendriya Vidyalayas

***288. SHRI THANGA TAMIL SELVAN:** Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that knowledge of Hindi has been made compulsory for the posts of teachers in Kendriya Vidyalayas since 1986; and

(b) if so, whether Government would withdraw this provision in view of the fact that well qualified candidates from Tamil Nadu are debarred from applying for the posts of teachers in Kendriya Vidyalayas?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI ARJUN SINGH): (a) Proficiency/Competency in teaching through Hindi is an essential qualification for appointment in Kendriya Vidyalayas (KVs) to the posts of Post Graduate Teachers, Trained Graduate Teachers and Primary Teachers.

(b) Kendriya Vidyalayas are primarily meant for children of transferable Central Government employees. As there is a mix of children with various mother tongues, English and Hindi are used as mediums of instruction in the class-room. Therefore knowledge of English and Hindi has been made compulsory for the teachers in Kendriya Vidyalayas. There are adequate number of teachers from Tamil Nadu having proficiency in Hindi and they are well represented in Kendriya Vidyalaya Sangathan.

Area studies programmes of UGC

***289. SHRI S.M. LALJAN BASHA:** Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the UGC has sanctioned any area-studies programmes to cover the Middle-East, North Africa and Latin America in the last two years;

(b) if so, the names of the area-studies sanctioned;

(c) the names of universities that were given these programmes; and

(d) the steps proposed to be taken to expand such programme?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI ARJUN SINGH): (a) to (c) During the last two years, University