

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRI D. NAPOLEON): (a) to (d) Presently there is no such proposal under consideration of the Government.

#### **Anti-beggary law**

3302. SHRI RAJEEV SHUKLA: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a need of an Anti-begging law in the country which prevents and penalizes the offenders who force others to beg and earn money for them;

(b) if so, what is being done in this regard and whether the Anti-begging Act is not being enforced; and

(c) with the number of beggars increasing in the country especially in the urban parts, the steps the Ministry proposes to deter this practice?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRI D. NAPOLEON): (a) to (c) Section 363A of Indian Penal Code (IPC) provides for punishment of a person who kidnaps or maims a minor for purposes of begging. Section 24 of Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Act, 2000 also has provision for punishment of a person who employs or uses any juvenile or a child for purpose of begging or causes a juvenile to beg.

Also, as per information available, 20 States and 2 UTs have anti-beggary laws. Most of these legislations have provisions for punishment of persons who employ or cause persons to beg or use them for the purpose of begging.

The Central Government has requested State Governments and UT Administrations to effectively implement their existing laws. This Ministry also held a meeting at the national level with various State Governments and other stakeholders in this regard on 1st July, 2010.

#### **Discovery of water on Moon**

3303. SHRI R.C. SINGH: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that water on Moon was first discovered by Indian Payload onboard Chandrayaan-I;

(b) whether it is also a fact that ISRO has failed to publish the above discovery in the international journals as a result of which it delayed the announcement;

(c) whether similar discovery was also made by American Payloads after Chandrayaan-I but was published much before the Indian paper and may get the credit first; and

(d) Government's view in this entire thing and in what manner it would be ensured that ISRO gets its due and genuine credit of finding water on Moon first?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE (SHRI PRITHVIRAJ CHAVAN): (a) to (c) The Chandrayaan-I spacecraft carried Indian as well as foreign

instruments. Two instruments from NASA, USA namely, the Moon Mineralogy Mapper (M3) and Miniature Synthetic Aperture Radar (Mini-SAR) were the primary instruments that found water on Moon. For the instruments carried on board the Chandrayaan-I, there were investigators identified from India as well as the other countries. As regards detecting water molecules on the moon, a joint paper was written by the American and the Indian investigators/scientists together. However, the first press statement was issued in USA and then in India. This was in accordance with the understanding between the two agencies, namely ISRO and NASA of USA.

Further, analysis of the data from the Moon Mineralogy Mapper (M3), collected over a period of three months, helped detecting unambiguous signal of water molecules on the lunar surface. The result of this study was subsequently brought out as a joint Indo-US publication.

(d) In case of joint investigations, announcement regarding the findings or discovery would be made jointly as per the understanding. In the specific case of Chandrayaan-I project, the joint India-USA team who designed the scientific payload which detected water on the moon gets the credit.

#### **Vacant seats of IHMs**

3304. SHRI O.T. LEPCHA:

SHRI KALRAJ MISHRA:

Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that during the current year National Council for Hotel Management and Catering Technology (NCHMCT) has permitted some Central, State and private IHMs to fill up the vacant seats through open market;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor and the details thereof, institute-wise and category-wise; and

(c) the manner in which quality of students entered through open market will be maintained in view of the fact that these students have not faced Joint Entrance Exam (JEE) which includes aptitude tests required for hospitality and hotel management?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM (SHRI SULTAN AHMED): (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. The National Council for Hotel Management and Catering Technology (NCHMCT) conducts an annual Joint Entrance Examination (JEE) for admission in B.Sc. (Hospitality and Hotel Administration) in the Institute of Hotel Management (IHM) affiliated to it.

For the academic year 2010-11, two rounds of counselling were held and even after exhausting all the candidates who appeared in the counselling, some Institutes were found to have substantial number of vacancies still unfilled. Those Institutes were allowed to fill up the