

Deemed University Status

*96. SHRIMATI BIMBA RAIKAR: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the University Grants Commission has recently processed the applications for granting 'Deemed University' status to many educational institutions across the country;

(b) if so, the number of the institutions conferred with the status of "Deemed University" and also those whose applications were rejected; and

(c) whether UGC has withdrawn recognition to any institution hitherto enjoying the status of 'Deemed University' and if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI ARJUN SINGH): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Since the 1st January 2005, the Central Government has, on the recommendation of University Grants Commission (UGC), conferred the status of 'Deemed to be University' on two institutions. The UGC has informed that as many as 66 proposals were not found suitable by its Screening Committee for the visit by the Expert Committee of the Commission.

(c) The Government of India has withdrawn the Deemed to be University status in respect of two institutions, on their request.

National Bal Bhavan Programme

*97. SHRI SUDARSHAN AKARAPU: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the number of Bal Bhavans set up under "National Bal Bhavan" programme in different States as on the 31st December, 2004;

(b) the target fixed for setting up more Bal Bhavans in each State during the Tenth Five Year Plan;

(c) whether any Expert Committee/study group has been appointed to evaluate the functioning of Bal Bhavans;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the amount sanctioned and spent under the scheme as on the 31st March, 2004?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI ARJUN SINGH): (a) and (b) No Bal Bhavan has so far been established in States through funding under the Plan Scheme of "National Bal Bhavan". However, State Governments, Local Bodies, NGOs etc. have themselves established 73 Bal Bhavans which have been granted affiliation by the National Bal Bhavan.

(c) and (d) No Expert Committee has been appointed to evaluate the functioning of State Bal Bhavans. However, a Committee under the Chairmanship of Shri P.K. Kaul, former Cabinet Secretary, was constituted in July, 2002, to review the working of the National Bal Bhavan. This Committee submitted its Report in December, 2002.

(e) During the year 2003-2004, Central Government sanctioned Plan Grant amounting to Rs. 1,86,00,000/- and accorded permission for carry forward of unspent balance of Rs. 2,14,20,451/- from the previous year, to National Bal Bhavan, Delhi, against which a sum of Rs. 3,98,22,767/- was utilized by it.

Kannada as a Classical Language

***98. SHRI K.B. KRISHNAMURTHY:** Will the Minister of CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether any delegation from Karnataka submitted a Memorandum seeking classical language status for Kannada language;

(b) if so, the date of its submission; and

(c) the present status thereof?

THE MINISTER OF CULTURE (SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) 22nd September, 2004.

(c) It is under examination.

Schemes for poverty alleviation

†*99. SHRI JAYANTILAL BAROT: Will the Minister of URBAN EMPLOYMENT AND POVERTY ALLEVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) the steps Government are taking to empower the poor for reducing poverty;

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.