

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI MD. ALI ASHRAF FATMI): (a) to (c) In the Conference of State Ministers of Higher and Technical Education held at Bangalore in January, 2005, there was a general consensus among the States for a Central Legislation regarding the issue relating to admission and regulation of fee. Accordingly, legislation has been drafted for vetting by concerned departments for circulation among the various stakeholders including the State Governments.

A Committee of experts has been constituted to examine all the relevant issues pertaining to the entry of foreign universities in India.

Authentication of Certificates

1284. SHRI T.T.V. DHINAKARAN: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Indian citizens intending to go abroad for employment have to get their certificates of educational qualifications authenticated by his Ministry;

(b) if so, the details of the requirements; and

(c) the steps taken by Government to facilitate the authentication to help Indian citizens who are seeking employment opportunity abroad?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI MD.ALI ASHRAF FATMI): (a) No, Sir. Only some countries in the Middle East, Africa and some parts of Europe insist on authentication of certificates of educational qualifications by Ministry of Human Resource Development for Indian citizens intending to go to these countries for employment.

(b) The candidates desiring to go abroad to these countries for employment are required to get their educational certificates authenticated by Ministry of Human Resource Development and later attested by Ministry of External Affairs and the concerned Embassy of the country where employment opportunity is being sought.

(c) To facilitate authentication of educational certificates, this Ministry in consultation with Ministry of External Affairs has decentralized the power

[14 March, 2005]

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of authentication to the 13 (Thirteen) State Government from where a large number of people seek employment abroad namely, Kerala, Andhra Pradesh, Tamil Nadu, Karnataka, Uttar Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, Punjab, Haryana, West Bengal, Gujarat, Bihar, Maharashtra and Rajasthan. In the State of Kerala, which contributes to the bulk of authentication seekers, three Regional Authentication Centres (RACs) at Thiruvananthapuram, Kochi and Kozhikode have been opened by the State Government. Besides this, the authentication Cell of the Ministry of Human Resource Development functions all working days of the week with flexible timings to facilitate authentication.

Reservation quota for NRIs

1285. SHRI B.K HARIPRASAD: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have decided to set apart 15 per cent reservation quota at premier educational institutions to NRIs and persons of Indian origin;

(b) if so, whether anybody has been empowered to regulate such admissions under the new scheme; and

(c) what are the eligibility criteria for aspirants from abroad and any special incentives/relaxations to the entrants from the SAARC nations?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI MD. ALI ASHRAF FATMI): (a) to (c) 15% supernumerary seats have been created in all the university deptts. exclusively for foreign students, and preference is given to persons of Indian origin holding foreign passports. Five percent of these seats have been earmarked for the children of Indian workers in the Gulf. The Statutory Councils such as the AICTE regulate these admissions as per equivalence of foreign certificate as laid down by the Association of Indian Universities (AIU). Foreign nationals from SAARC countries seeking admission through Direct Admission of Students Abroad (DASA) scheme are allowed 50% fee waiver provided they are studying in SAARC countries only. This scheme is implemented in selected centrally funded institutions.