

(d) and (e) Under the relevant Regulations, National Council for Teacher Education has powers to grant relaxation on receipt of a reference from the concerned State Government, to the extent it considers necessary.

Mahila Samakhya Karyakram

†2674. SHRI LAXMINARAYAN SHARMA: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the States where Mahila Samakhya Karyakram is being run at present;

(b) the basis on which the States are selected for 'Mahila Samakhya Karyakram';

(c) whether Government have received any proposal to include the 'Mahila Samakhya Karyakram' of Madhya Pradesh in 'Rashtriya Mahila Samakhya Karyakram'; and

(d) if so, by when the concurrence would be accorded?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI MD. ALI ASHRAF FATMI): (a) to (d) The Mahila Samakhya Karyakram is operational in 9 States viz. Andhra Pradesh, Assam, Bihar, Gujarat, Jharkhand, Karnataka, Kerala, Uttaranchal and Uttar Pradesh. Mahila Samakhya Programme is sanctioned to States which request for the programme. A proposal for restarting the programme in Madhya Pradesh has been received. The States approved for coverage under the Mahila Samakhya Programme so far, for the 10th Plan period are limited to the 9 States mentioned above.

Elections of student unions

†2675. SHRI KAMAL AKHTAR: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that elections of student unions have not been conducted in certain Central Universities for the last so many years;

(b) if so, details thereof, State-wise;

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(c) the reasons therefor;

(d) whether Government have formulated or is considering to formulate any plan for holding regular election in these Central Universities in future; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI MD. ALI ASHRAF FATMI): (a) to (e) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the Sabha.

Indian Educational Fund

†2676. SHRI MOTILAL VORA: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that essentiality of the Indian Educational Fund for the help of different educational Institutions has been removed;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) whether the cases of income-tax evasion by the private educational Institutions are likely to be increased as a result of the above decision?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI MD. ALI ASHRAF FATMI): (a) to (c) In order to facilitate donations including smaller amounts from India and abroad for implementing projects/programmes connected with the education sector, "Bharat Shiksha Kosh" has been constituted by Government as a registered Society to supplement Governmental efforts.

After issuance of the Government's instructions dated 21.2.2003 to all the institutions/autonomous bodies/public sector undertakings under the Department of Secondary and Higher Education and the Department of Elementary Education and literacy requiring them to get the donations/grants routed through the Bharat Shiksha Kosh, some reports had appeared in the press conveying the apprehensions of some IIT alumni regarding getting their money routed through a Government agency, on account of its perceived low credibility.

Some non-official Members of the Board of Governors of the Kosh had also highlighted similar apprehensions and requested for a review of the

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.