

, (a) whether the Government of Maharashtra had suggested a scheme for encouraging Secondary Education through SSC boards by instituting Scholarships, Olympiads in mathematics, Physics, Chemistry, biology and Astronomy, representing the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) Government's decision thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI MD. ALI ASHRAF FATMI): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The proposal is for giving grants to SSC/HSC Boards, at the rate of Rs. Five lakhs per student selected from such Boards, to represent India in Olympiads held every year in various fields *viz.* Mathematics, Physics, Chemistry, and Biology etc. According to the proposal grants would be utilized by the Boards to develop infrastructure for grooming students for these Olympiads.

(c) The issue of quality has received considerable attention over the years and from the perspective currently accepted, it would be preferable to look at quality as a systematic concern, which would imply that we should focus our attention on improvement of teaching in classroom across the board, rather than in terms of preparing students for special or competitive events. It is true that students' performance in such events bring a momentary glory, but preparation for such events do not add to the overall quality of the system. Therefore, the proposal is not found suitable for implementation in the present frame.

Women Self-Help Groups

3284. SHRI S. ANBALAGAN: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have any information regarding functions of women self-help groups in various States;

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

(c) the efforts being made/proposed to be made by Government to further strengthen the system of women self-help groups?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI KANTI SINGH): (a) Women's Self-Help Groups are formed by Central/State Government Departments and other agencies in various States with various objectives such as social and economic empowerment, education, fight against social evils, water supply etc.

(b) the State-wise number of women self-help groups formed under the schemes of Swayamsidha and Swa-Shakti implemented by Department of Women and Child Development and Swarnajayanti Gram Swarozgar Yojana (SGSY) implemented by Ministry of Rural Development is given in the Statement, (*see below*)

(c) Efforts are being made by Department of Women and Child Development to strengthen the women self-help groups by providing training inputs on various aspects including income generation programmes, credit linkage, marketing of finished products etc. The women SHG members are taken on exposure visits to successful projects.

Statement

Sl. No	State/UT	Statewise No. of Self-Help Groups formed			Total
		amsidha	Sway-Shakti	Swa-SGSY*	
1	2	3	4	5	6
1	Andhra Pradesh	3867	0	512381	516248
2	Arunachal Pradesh	263	0	131	394
3	Assam	2400	0	61992	64392
4	Bihar	2552	441	30418	33411
5	Chhattisgarh	17080	560	18566	20834
6	Goa		0	216	216
7	Gujarat	2978	2706	28767	34451
8	Haryana	1300	1550	503	3353
9	Himachal Pradesh	800	0	3031	3831
10	Jammu & Kashmir	1250	0	3427	4677
11	Jharkhand	2418	1678	14330	18426

1	2	3	4	5	6
12	Karnataka	2992	2149	15437	20578
13	Kerala	2468	0	45681	48149
14	Madhya Pradesh	3667	2462	110711	116840
15	Maharashtra	3573	0	70144	73717
16	Manipur	300	0	0	300
17	Meghalaya	427	0	1364	1791
18	Mizoram	301	0	115	416
19	Nagaland	600	0	0	600
20	Orissa	3600	0	92758	96358
21	Punjab	1632	0	2331	3963
22	Rajasthan	2935	0	9479	12414
23	Sikkim	555	0	421	976
24	Tamil Nadu	5426	0	152177	157603
25	Tripura	250	0	9960	10210
26	Uttar Pradesh	8343	5530	64727	78600
27	Uttaranchal	1050	571	7520	9141
28	West Bengal	4903	0	59569	64472
29	A&N Island	143	0	41	184
30	Daman & Diu	0	0	0	0
31	Chandigarh	102	0	0	102
32	D&N Haveli	90	0	0	90
33	Delhi	159	0	0	159
34	Lakashadweep	226	0	2	228
35	Pondicherry	300	0	898	1198
TOTAL		63578	17647	1317097	1398322

NOTE: The scheme of Swa-Shakti is being implemented in 9 States only, i.e., Bihar, Chhattisgarh, Haryana, Jharkhand, Karnataka, Madhya Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh and Uttaranchal.

* Swaranjayanti Gram Swarozgar Yojana.