

**GOVERNMENT POLICY IN DEALING WITH INSTITUTIONS OF HIGHER EDUCATION**

1407. PROF. SAIYID NURUL HASAN: Will the Minister of EDUCATION AND YOUTH SERVICES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that in dealing with institutions of higher education such as the Indian Institutes of Technology, the All India Institute of Medical Sciences and the Agricultural Universities, the Government of India bypass the University Grants Commission; and

(b) if so, what are the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF EDUCATION AND YOUTH SERVICES (PROF. V. K. R. V. RAO): (a) and (b) The Indian Institutes of Technology have been specially set up by the Central Government as institutions of national importance by an Act of Parliament for advanced studies and research in engineering and technology. Grants for the Institutes are being provided directly by the Central Government out of the budget allocations as voted by Parliament. Therefore, the question of bypassing the University Grants Commission does not arise.

As for the All India Institute of Medical Sciences and Agricultural Universities, the required information is being collected from the Ministries concerned and will be laid on the Table of the House in due course.

**GANDHI CENTENARY CELEBRATIONS**

1408. DR. BHAI MAHAVIR: SHRI SITARAM JAIPURIA:

Will the Minister of EDUCATION AND YOUTH SERVICES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a number of countries have initiated action to celebrate Gandhi Centenary;

(b) if so, which are those countries;

(c) whether it is a fact that the material and literature asked for by some of the countries are not available either with our Missions or here; and

(d) what amount has been spent by the Government of India in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF EDUCATION AND YOUTH SERVICES (PROF. V. K. R. V. RAO): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (d) A statement is attached herewith.

**STATEMENT**

(b) Steps are being taken in the following countries for the celebration of the Gandhi Centenary;

1. Afghanistan
2. Algeria
3. Argentina
4. Australia
5. Austria
6. Belgium
7. Bolivia
8. Brazil
9. Burma
10. Cambodia
11. Canada
12. Ceylon
13. Chile
14. Columbia
15. Congo
16. Cyprus
17. Czechoslovakia
18. Denmark
19. Dominica
20. Ethopia
21. Fiji
22. Finland
23. France
24. Gabon
25. Ghana
26. Guinea