

Academic exchange agreements

*132. SHRI HARISH RAWAT:

SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA:††

Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the number of countries with which India have academic exchange agreements;

(b) whether such countries recognize Indian degrees in higher and technical education;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(d) the steps being taken to address this anomaly?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI MD. ALI ASHRAF FATMI): (a) to (d) A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement

(a) Sixteen countries.

(b) to (d) Not in all cases, mainly because of the difference in prescribed duration of courses in India and in other countries. With a view to resolving issues of this nature, the EEP includes a provision for exchange of views on mutual recognition of academic degrees.

SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA: Sir, I would like to know from the hon. Minister, through you, which are the disciplines and which are the institutions that have been the destinations of such academic exchanges. Has the Government made a survey as to whether the institutions all over the country are able to get the benefit of such academic exchanges? Or if such exchanges are focussed to only a few institutions, what steps are being taken to enlarge the scope of these schemes?

श्री मोहम्मद अली अशरफ फातमी: जो हमारा academic exchange agreement है, वह अभी 16 मुल्कों के साथ है और जहां तक इसका फायदा उठाने का सवाल है, तो सारी यूनिवर्सिटीज़, चाहे वह सेंट्रल यूनिवर्सिटी हो या स्टेट यूनिवर्सिटी हो, वे अपना एक्सचेंज प्रोग्राम दूसरी यूनिवर्सिटीज़ के साथ चला सकती हैं और उसमें कहीं भी आपत्ति नहीं है। लेकिन जहां तक कंट्री का सवाल है, हमारा 16 मुल्कों के साथ एमओयू साइन हुआ है और यूनिवर्सिटीज़ अपना एक्सचेंज प्रोग्राम चला सकती हैं।

†† The question was actually asked on the floor of the House by Shri Santosh Bagrodia.

SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA: Sir, my second supplementary is, whether the European countries and the US recognise Indian degrees and educational qualifications. Have they details of the recent agreements with the US and the UK on academic exchanges which have been finalised? Please give details as to what are the contents of these exchange programmes and what schemes have been devised.

श्री मोहम्मद अली अशरफ फातमी: सर, यूके और यूएसए के साथ हमारा कोई academic exchange agreement नहीं है। जहां तक डिग्रियों का सवाल है, डिप्लोमेटिक चैनल से जो मुखल्लिफ डिग्रियां हैं, उनकी हम रिकग्नाइज़ करते हैं और हमारा डिग्री वे रिकग्नाइज़ करते हैं। इंग्लैंड और अमेरिका में यहां के काफी छात्र तालीम हासिल कर रहे हैं, नौकरी कर रहे हैं। उनको जब कभी कोई मुश्किल आती है तो हम उस कंट्री से बात करके जो हमारी काउंसिल्स हैं, उनकी जिम्मेदारी होती है, वे बात करके उन डिग्रियों को देख लेती हैं कि कौन सी डिग्री वहां की हमारे यहां रिकग्नाइज़ हो सकती है और यहां कि डिग्री वहां रिकग्नाइज़ हो सकती है?

MR. CHAIRMAN: Question Hour is over.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO STARRED QUESTIONS

Growth of agro-rural industries

*124 **SHRI T.T.V. DHINAKARAN:** Will the Minister of AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether any survey has been made in recent years to know the growth of agro-rural industries in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps taken to give competitive edge to this sector by way of subsidies, advanced technology, etc.?

THE MINISTER OF AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES (SHRI MAHAVIR PRASAD): (a) and (b) The Ministry of Agro and Rural Industries and the organizations under it have not made any survey in recent years. *i.e.*, 2003-04, 2004-05 and 2005-06 to know the growth of