

Foreign universities being operated from residential areas

4762. SHRI JAI PRAKASH NARAYAN SINGH: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether there has been an influx of foreign universities into the country, in the last three to four years, in the name of quality higher education;

(b) whether many of these universities are operating from residential areas and small rooms without basic infrastructure especially in Delhi, whereas Indian Universities are allowed to operate only when they have acres of land and other infrastructure and buildings;

(c) if so, the names of the foreign universities being operated from residential areas in Delhi; and

(d) the action taken by Government to remove these universities from residential areas and relocate them at par with Indian Universities?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI E. AHAMED): (a) In the absence of a Central law for regulating the entry and operations of foreign universities, no authentic information about influx of foreign universities in the country is available.

(b) and (c) There was one report in the media of a "one-room university", called the 'Commercial University Ltd.' in Daryanganj, New Delhi. This so called "university" is not a university and has been declared a fake university by the University Grants Commission (UGC) and has been listed as such on its website, which can be seen at <http://www.ugc.ac.in/inside/fakealerts.html>.

(d) The Government has introduced the Foreign Educational Institutions (Regulation of Entry and Operations) Bill, 2010 in Parliament which seeks to put in place a mechanism to regulate the entry and operation of foreign educational institutions. At present, only the All India Council for Technical Education (AICTE) has formulated "Regulations for Entry and Operation of Foreign Universities/ Institutions Imparting Technical Education in India".

Procurement of accident relief trains and cranes

4763. Dr. JANARDHAN WAGHMARE: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Railways propose to procure high speed self propelled accident relief trains and hydraulic cranes with telescopic boom;

(b) if so, the details of countries from which Government proposes to procure such high speed self propelled accident relief trains and other allied items;

(c) whether the terms and conditions for procuring the same have been finalised; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BHARATSINH SOLANKI): (a) No, Sir. But we are manufacturing Self Propelled Accident Relief Train, which can operate at maximum sectional speeds, the same at which other trains run. Hydraulic cranes with telescopic boom fit for 110 kmph. have been proposed to be procured.

(b) The procurement of new hydraulic cranes with telescopic boom is proposed to be made through Global Tender and the manufacturer/country will be decided accordingly. The Self Propelled Accident Relief Trains are proposed to be manufactured in-house for the time being.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

Improvement in passenger amenities

†4764. SHRI PRABHAT JHA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that budgetary allocation for improvement in passengers amenities is being continuously slashed;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is also a fact that Standing Committee on Railways has expressed its unhappiness on slashing of budgetary allocation for improvement in passengers' amenities;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether it is also a fact that the Committee has given its approval to the framework chalked out in Railway Budget 2012-13 to modernise Railways and strengthen its security and safety in the next five years; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.