

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI MD. ALIASHRAF FATMI): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

(d) and (e) Presently the Government is concentrating on the consolidation of facilities of the existing universities rather than on increasing the number of Central Universities. Apart from the exception made in the case of the North East Region, the only exception has been in respect of the Allahabad University which is in a different category, being restoration to its one time status of a Central University. In view of the priority to consolidation of existing universities from the available resources, granting of Central University status to more state universities would not be possible at present.

Foreign universities

1232. SHRI RAJEEV SHUKLA: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that India had raised the issue, at an international forum under UNESCO, of the foreign universities opening campuses in the country which are not even recognized in their home countries;

(b) if so, the outcome thereof;

(c) whether it is also a fact that following recommendations from CNR Committee, Government are planning to legislate on the entry and operations of the foreign universities in the country;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the details of the other steps being contemplated to regulate the foreign universities?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI MD. ALIASHRAF FATMI): (a) and (b) During the discussions on the UNESCO Guidelines on "Quality Provision in Cross-Border Higher Education" at the 33rd Session of the General Conference of UNESCO held at Paris in October, 2005, India has *inter-alia* made the observation that "no foreign institution should be allowed to operate in the host country if it is not accredited in the home country".

(c) to (e) The Government intends to formulate a regulatory framework on foreign education providers in consultation with all stake-holders at the earliest possible.

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1233. SHRI MANOJ BHATTACHARYA: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to refer to the reply to Unstarred Question 2702, given in the Rajya Sabha on the 22nd August, 2005 and state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the advertisements issued in print media on 19th September, 2005 by the Indian Institute of Planning and Management, New Delhi regarding admission to its management training programme for award of MBA Degree; and

(b) if so, Government's reaction thereto and the steps, if any, proposed to be taken to sensitize the public about the correct position in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI MD. ALIASHRAF FATMI): (a) and (b) The Indian Institute of Planning and Management, New Delhi is not approved by the All India Council for Technical Education (AICTE), the statutory body empowered to grant approval for starting new technical institutions and for introduction of new courses or programmes. The AICTE has issued a notification in leading newspapers on November 30, 2005 stating under 'mandatory approval requirements' that AICTE will take legal action against such institutions as are not approved by AICTE and are conducting courses/ programmes in technical education as defined under the AICTE Act, 1987 without prior approval of AICTE.

India's ranking in UN Human Development Report

1234. SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether as per U.N. Human Development Report 2005, India is at 127th position out of 177 countries in Human Development Index whereas China is ranked 85th position;

(b) if so, the reasons for such low ranking; and

(c) the steps being taken to improve the ranking?