

Scheme many officers of district level and State level do not approve and forward proposals of the voluntary institutions and these proposals are pending in the Central offices; and

(b) the details of action being taken by Government regarding pending proposals, in respect of NORAD Scheme, particularly in U.P. and district Bulandshahr?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI KANTI SINGH): (a) A State level Empowered Committee has been constituted in each State to recommend and forward proposals of voluntary organizations/institutions to the Central Government. The proposals as and when approved by State Level Empowered Committees are forwarded to the Department for Government of India consideration.

(b) Consequent upon the decision taken to transfer Swawlamban (NORAD) Scheme to the States, all project proposals received from U.P.-based organizations/institutions, have been returned to the Government of Uttar Pradesh. No proposals are pending with Government of India at present.

Reservation in AMU

†1261. SHRI LALIT KISHORE CHATURVEDI: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

whether Government are considering to file an appeal against order of the Hon'ble Allahabad High Court cancelling the 50 percent reservation of seats in Aligarh Muslim University for Muslim students; and

whether Government also propose to provide reservation for the students of other minorities such as Christians, Sikhs and Parsis' in their respective institutes on the line of Aligarh Muslim University, if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI MD.ALIASHRAF FATMI): (a) The Government has since filed Special Appeals against the order dated 4th October, 2005 of the Single bench of the High Court, Allahabad, quashing the decision of the University's authorities to reserve 50 per cent seats in the Postgraduate Medical Courses for the Muslims of India on all-India basis, as also the 'no-objection' thereto conveyed by the Government and the matter is before the Division Bench.

[5 December, 2005]

RAJYA SABHA

(b) While the Government does not make any reservation referred to in the question, each minority institution established and administered in exercise of the rights under Article 30(1) of the Constitution may adopt a policy of reservation for the minorities establishing the institution of their choice, provided the relevant Act/Statute/MoA of the institution empower so.

Use of Education Cess

†1262. SHRI LAUT KISHORE CHATURVEDI: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

whether two percent education cess is applicable on income tax, excise duty, customs duty and service tax since the July, 2004, if so, the amount of money received as a result thereof; and

to what extent the money thus receive has been utilized for basic qualitative education and the States implementing the same, the formal and informal education-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI MD. ALI ASHRAF FATMI): (a) and (b) Yes Sir. A two percent Education Cess was imposed through the Finance (No. 2) Act, 2004 on income tax, excise duty, customs duty and service tax to finance Government's commitment to quality basic education. According to the Receipts Budget 2005-06, the estimated yield from the Cess is as follows:—

RE 2004-05 Rs. 5010 crores BE

2005-06 Rs. 6975 crores.

Cess proceeds are to be utilised exclusively for the Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan (SSA) and Mid Day Meal (MDM) programs. The allocation for SSA and MDM during 2005-06 is as follows-

SSA (BE) Rs. 7156 crores.

MDM (BE) Rs. 3345 crores.

Internet connection to schools and colleges

1263. SHRI N.R. GOVINDARAJAR: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are considering to provide high-speed internet connection to various schools and colleges; and

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.