

[5 July, 2004]

RAJYA SABHA

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI KAMAL NATH):(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Our marine products exports to the E.U. were valued at US \$ 300.25 million during 2003-04 according to the provisional export figures provided by the Marine Products Export Development Authority (MPEDA).

(c) Country-wise targets for export of marine products are not fixed.

(d) Yes, Sir.

(e) Some of the incentives available to the new exporters are financial assistance for (i) setting up new processing plants/pre-processing plant; (ii) automatic flake/chip tube ice making machinery; (iii) purchase of generator set; (iv) acquisition of all processing machinery and equipments for production of value added products; (v) establishment of chill room facility in processing plants; (vi) installation of water purification system, effluent treatment plants; (vii) acquisition of refrigerated truck/containers; and (viii) construction of new large cold storage; etc.

Payment of gratuity to teachers

*11 SHRI RAVULA CHANDRA SEKAR REDDY:

SHRIMATI N.P. DURGA:

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

(a) whether the Supreme Court has ruled that teachers cannot claim gratuity as a matter of right; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and the measures proposed to be taken to amend the relevant Act for paying gratuity to teachers as a social security measure?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI ARJUN SINGH): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The Supreme Court of India in their judgement dated 13th January, 2004 in a matter between Ahmedabad Pvt. Primary Teachers' Association Vs. Administrative Officer and others have ruled that teachers who are mainly employed for imparting education are not covered under the definition of "employees" for extending gratuity

benefits under the Payment of Gratuity Act, 1972. The Apex Court has, however, observed:

"Our conclusion should not be misunderstood that teachers although engaged in very noble profession of educating our young generation should not be given any gratuity benefit. There are already in several States separate statutes, rules and regulations granting gratuity benefits to teachers in educational institutions which are more or less beneficial than the gratuity benefits provided under the Act. It is for the Legislature to take cognizance of situation of such teachers in various establishments where gratuity benefits are not available and think of a separate legislation for them in this regard. That is the subject matter solely of the Legislature to consider and decide."

Necessary steps for consultations with the States have been initiated.

Distortion of facts in NCERT books

*12. SHRI A. VIJAYA RAGHAVAN: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there was criticism of distortion of facts in the Social Studies and History curriculum-2000 prepared by NCERT for school students;

(b) if so, whether Government are considering review of the NCERT syllabus 2000;

(c) whether Government are considering withdrawal of such books from the school curriculum;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI ARJUN SINGH):(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The National Curriculum Framework for School Education (NCFSE), is due for review.

(c) to (e) Reports of communalization and inadequacies of history textbooks of the NCERT have engaged public and academic attention for some time. Therefore, it has been considered necessary to have a quick review of the history textbooks and history portion of the social science