

(d) if so, the steps being taken by the Government in this regard and the future plans?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI MD. ALIASHRAF FATMI): (a) and (b) According to the information given by the University Grants Commission (UGC) no complaint in this regard has been received by the UGC from any University/Institute.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) UGC has already issued a circular to all the universities for implementing the provisions regarding 3% reservation in admissions in all Government educational institutions and other educational institutions receiving aid from the Government as contained in Section 39 of the Persons With Disabilities (Equal Opportunities, Protection of Rights and Full Participation) Act 1995.

### **Abandonment of force to discipline Children**

212. SHRI R.P. GOENKA: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to a recent recommendation of the State Human Rights Commission to the Tamil Nadu Government to retain corporal punishment in the statute to discipline erring students in schools; and

(b) if so, the details of the steps taken/being taken to review the existing laws and practices being followed in the different States to protect rights of the children in society, in view of the 1989 United Nations Convention on Rights of the Child, ratified by India, which advocates abandonment of force as a mean of disciplining children in favour of non-violent methods of coercion?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI KANTI SINGH): (a) The State Human Rights Commission of Tamil Nadu has informed that issue of corporal punishment to the school students was discussed in a meeting held in consultation with School Education Department of the Government of Tamil Nadu and it was recommended to the Government of Tamil Nadu to evolve a proper approach based on the recommendation of the

Expert Committee already constituted by the Government of Tamil Nadu to substitute Rule 51 of Tamil Nadu Educational Rules dealing with issue of corporal punishment, by a set of guidelines of self discipline entailing certain corrective actions on the part of erring students.

(b) India is a signatory to the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child which provides for protection of children from cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment. One of the recent initiatives that Government has taken is the adoption of a National Charter for Children which has been prepared keeping in view of the provisions of the UN Convention. The Charter provides for protection of children from physical punishment in schools.

### **Tamil language**

213. SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have agreed in principle to declare Tamil as a classical language; and

(b) what steps Government are taking to spread the ancient Tamil language throughout the world?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI MD. ALI ASHRAF FATMI): (a) The Government have stated in their Common Minimum Programme that the UPA Government will set up a committee to examine the question of declaring all languages in the Eighth Schedule of the Constitution as official languages. In addition, Tamil will be declared as a classical language.

(b) The Government is committed to fulfilling its obligation of promoting and developing all Indian languages including Tamil through its various agencies such as a Central Institute of Indian Languages (CIIL), Mysore, National Book Trust (NBT) and Sahitya Akademi etc. which implement several schemes for the purpose. CIIL, Mysore provides financial assistance for publication and purchase of Tamil books, trained teachers from States and Union Territories in Tamil through a 10 months intensive programme. It also runs distance learning programmes in Tamil for the general public. Several foreign nationals have also been given training in Tamil by CIIL. CIIL supports research projects related to the development of Tamil besides organizing various orientation programmes and refresher courses in Tamil. CIIL has also developed language evaluation tools in Tamil for the Government of Singapore.