

Foreign nationals obtaining Indian passport

*28. SHRI B.K. HARIPRASAD: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that foreign nationals from Nepal, Afghanistan and Bangladesh obtain Indian Passport;
- (b) if so, how many such cases have been found in the last three years; and
- (c) what action has been taken against those who are responsible for such crime?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ): (a) to (c) As per law, Indian passports are issued to Indian citizens. The citizenship of an applicant is confirmed on the basis of documents submitted and the police verification report. Whenever cases of suspected foreign nationals obtaining Indian passports are reported, appropriate actions such as revoking of the passports and initiation of criminal proceedings are taken as prescribed under the Passports Act, 1967. If involvement of any Government/Police official is established in such cases, disciplinary action is also taken by the Government/Police authorities as per rules.

Bio-Chemic Education Grant Commission, Nadia

*29. DR. CHANDAN MITRA: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) the present status of Bio-Chemic Education Grant Commission (BEGC) with office at Nadia, West Bengal;
- (b) the details of the courses offered by the Commission along with its branch offices in various States; and
- (c) the steps taken by Government to publicise information about its authenticity for the benefit of students?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI SMRITI ZUBIN IRANI): (a) to (c) The Department of Electronics (DeitY) had informed that the "Bio-Chemic Education Grant Commission" appears to be fraudulent. The Ministry of Human Resource Development (MHRD) has requested Department of Electronics and Information Technology to take necessary action against the "Bio-Chemic Education Grant Commission" as per prevailing cyber laws/rules/guidelines. The MHRD has

directed the UGC to file a FIR with the concerned Police Station in Nadia District of West Bengal to enable a thorough police investigation into the matter.

Improving quality of technical and professional education

*30. SHRI K. K. RAGESH: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) the total intake of students in All India Council for Technical Education (AICTE) accredited professional educational institutions during the last academic year;
- (b) the number of seats that remained vacant in such institutions during the last academic year; and
- (c) whether Government has any plan to improve quality of technical and professional education?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI SMRITI ZUBIN IRANI): (a) and (b) AICTE has approved an annual intake of 18,07,091 of undergraduate students for 2014-15 in the professional Technical Institutions [details are given in the Statement (*See below*)]. Of these 8,63,079 seats could not be filled for want of students.

(e) In order to enhance quality in technical education, AICTE has notified "All India Council for Technical Education (Mandatory Accreditation of all Programmes / Courses in Technical Education Institutions and University Departments and Institutions Deemed to be Universities imparting Technical Education) Regulations, 2014" *vide* notification F.No. 37-3/Legal/AICTE/2014 dated 29th January 2014. To rationalize the expansion of courses in engineering/technical, management etc. and to bring quality in technical education, AICTE has made it mandatory to have NBA Accreditation for institutions seeking new courses/expansion of existing courses. Further to improve quality of technical education, the following activities have been introduced:

- (i) Quality improvement schemes of AICTE.
- (ii) Study Webs of Active Learning for Young Aspiring Minds (SWAYAM)
- (iii) National Digital Library (NDL)
- (iv) Accreditation by National Board of Accreditation (NBA)
- (v) Ranking of the Institutions.