

International Education Fair

1221. SHRI GIREESH KUMAR SANGHI: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether recently the International Education Fair was held in New Delhi; if so, the details of the discussion that took place in the event;

(b) how the Fair would help the country in spreading awareness by providing proper guidance and an accurate and up to date information on different professional courses and career options; and

(c) the details of the benefits derived with the participation in this Fair?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI MD. ALI ASHRAF FATMI): (a) No International Education Fair has been organised by this Ministry in New Delhi recently.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Impact of Operation Black Board

1222. SHRI URKHAO GWRA BRAHMA: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government's Mission 'Operation Black Board' is a total failure in Assam;

(b) whether Government are aware of the fact that all the teachers under OBB have not received their monthly salaries since the year 2002, particularly in Assam; and

(c) if so, what is the Government's initiative in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI MD. ALI ASHRAF FATMI): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Central assistance for teachers' posts supported under Operation Black Board Scheme during the IXth Plan period ceased at the end of that period (i.e. from 31.3.02) and has become the responsibility of the concerned State Governments. However, Central Government has decided as a special case, that for North Eastern States, including Assam, assistance for salaries of teachers supported during IXth Plan under Operation Black Board (OBB)

Scheme, would continue during the tenth Plan period also. Funds for salaries of admissible number of posts have been released accordingly.

Short-term Marriages

1223. SHRI C. RAMACHANDRAIAH: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the National Commission for Women (NCW) has asked the External Affairs Ministry to issue instructions to all embassies to ensure that 'Muttah' or short-term marriages are stopped and those indulging in such practices are dealt with strictly; and

(b) if so, the action taken to end such short-term marriages in the country immediately?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI KANTI SINGH): (a) Yes, Sir. The National Commission for Women (NCW) has written to the Ministry of External Affairs that efforts should be made to curb 'Muttah' Marriages between Arab tourists and Indian women.

(b) Ministry of External Affairs has informed that Indian Diplomatic Missions in the Gulf countries have been instructed to discreetly monitor those seeking visas to ascertain the genuineness of the intended purpose of the visit. The Embassies of the Gulf countries in India have also been appraised of the problem during regular interactions.

Revival of Central Advisory Board of Education

1224. SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are considering to revive the Central Advisory Board of Education (CABE); and

(b) if so, what is its role and function?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI MD. ALI ASHRAF FATMI): (a) and (b) The Central Advisory Board of Education has since been reconstituted *vide* this Ministry's Resolution dated 6.7.2004.