

Universities in N.E. States

648. SHRI RISHANG KEISHING: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) the States where Government have established universities;
- (b) the terms and conditions, if any, for establishing the universities;
- (c) the consideration or special circumstances under which Government have been compelled to set up universities in some of the N.E. States;
- (d) whether some N.E. States have demanded to establish any university or to take over the existing universities; and
- (e) if so, Government's response thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI MD. ALIASHRAF FATMI): (a) to (e) A Central University is established by the Govt. of India through an Act of Parliament. At present, there are 18 Central Universities located in 11 States/Union Territories, namely, Andhra Pradesh, Assam, Delhi, Maharashtra, Manipur, Meghalaya, Mizoram, Nagaland, Pondicherry, Uttar Pradesh and West Bengal. All the Central Universities, including those in the N.E. States, were established mainly in response to certain historical, cultural or consideration of Centre-State relations and to help remove regional imbalances.

The National Policy on Education, 1986 (as modified in 1992) lays emphasis on consolidation and expansion of facilities in the existing Universities rather than setting up of more Universities. In view of this, the demands from some N.E. States seeking establishment of any new Central University or to convert the existing State Universities into the Central Universities could not be met with in the past. The UGC has, however, been requested to examine a proposal recently received for conversion of Manipur University into a Central University.

Thefts in Museums

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