

(a) whether Government has received any proposal to make Patriots Day, observed on 13th August, and Ningol Chakkouba, which coincides with Bhai Duj, as restricted holidays and include them in the National Calendar;

(b) if so, the details of action taken thereon and by when Government would declare them so as to fulfill the aspirations of the people of Manipur;

(c) whether it is a fact that not even a single day related to the culture, festivals and historical symbols of Manipur is included in the National Calendar; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and the plan of Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS (DR. JITENDRA SINGH): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir.

As per existing policy, the Central Government administrative offices observe 17 holidays in a year. Out of these 17 holidays, 14 are pre-notified, compulsory holidays, which include three National holidays, namely, Republic Day, Independence Day and Mahatma Gandhi's birthday. The remaining three holidays are required to be selected, by the Central Government Employees Welfare Coordination Committee (CGEWCC), functioning in respective States, from another list of 12 occasions. In addition, individual employees are allowed two restricted holidays in a year to be selected from a notified list of such Restricted Holidays.

In view of the ceiling on the total number of holidays that can be declared in a year by the Government, it has not been found possible to declare additional Restricted Holiday for the above occasions.

(c) and (d) As per policy, the Central Government Employees Welfare Coordination Committee in the State Capitals choose three holidays keeping in view the occasions of local importance. The Coordination Committees at the State Capitals may draw up separate list of Restricted Holidays keeping in view the occasions of local importance.

Demand for restructuring of NITI Aayog

597. SHRI K. RAHMAN KHAN: Will the Minister of PLANNING be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that some of the labour organizations have demanded the restructuring/ reorganizing of the National Institution for Transforming India (NITI) Aayog, due to its pursuance of the corporate lobby agenda;

(b) whether they have demanded the inclusion of representatives from the labour, women and farmers in the Aayog; and

(c) whether the Aayog is considering their demand sincerely and if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING (RAO Inderjit Singh): (a) NITI Aayog is not aware of any demand from any Labour Organization for restructuring/ reorganizing National Institution for Transforming India (NITI) Aayog.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Review of autonomous bodies by NITI Aayog

598. SHRI RIPUN BORA: Will the Minister of PLANNING be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the National Institution for Transforming India (NITI) Aayog is carrying out a review of the autonomous bodies under various Ministries/ Departments of Government of India;

(b) if so, the details thereof and by when this exercise would be completed.

(c) whether it is also a fact that based on this review, the Indian Institute of Mass Communication (IIMC) is to be merged with either Jawaharlal Nehru University (JNU) or Jamia Milia Islamia; and

(d) if so, the reasons therefor and whether the concerned stakeholders were consulted?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING (RAO Inderjit Singh): (a) to (d) Pursuant to the recommendation made by the Expenditure Management Commission (EMC) in its Report submitted to Government of India in September 2015, the Ministry of Finance has requested NITI Aayog to undertake an in-depth review of the Autonomous Bodies (ABs). Accordingly, NITI Aayog has constituted a Committee in January 2017 under the chairmanship of Principal Adviser, NITI Aayog to review the ABs and make recommendations for enhancing their outcomes, effectiveness, efficiency and governance through consultative process. In Phase-I, the Committee is holding consultations/meetings with the respective Ministries/Departments with regard to ABs set up under the Societies' Registration Act. The Report of the Committee is yet to be finalized.