

Programme of Taslima in Allahabad University

†298. SHRI SHREEGOPAL VYAS: Will the Minister of HUMAN-RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that the University of Allahabad has cancelled the programme of Taslima after the Hyderabad incident;
- (b) whether Government had given its consent;
- (c) whether some people staged a victory procession after this incident; and
- (d) if so, the views of Government on this episode?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI ARJUN SINGH): (a) to (d) According to the information furnished by the University of Allahabad, the Women's Advisory Board of the University had scheduled a programme on 14.8.2007 in which Dr. Taslima Nasrin was to participate. However, after a review of the situation, the University decided on 11.8.2007 to cancel the said programme in order to maintain peace in the city and the campus so that the academic atmosphere was not vitiated at the very beginning of the academic session. The University has reported that a few sections staged a procession, after the cancellation of the programme.

The Government is of the opinion that the University of Allahabad is a statutory autonomous body established by an Act of Parliament, and it does not require any approval or consent of the Government for scheduling or cancelling such programmes.

Enrolment in higher education

†*299 SHRI LALIT KISHORE CHATURVEDI: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that enrolment in higher education is merely 8 per cent to 10 per cent and by the end of this Plan, it will reach only upto 12 per cent;
- (b) whether it is also a fact that present educational system lacks skill and courses are not being started as per the skill demanded by the industry;
- (c) whether the Knowledge Commission has proposed opening of 1500 New Universities;
- (d) whether due to such lack of goal, not a single genius has emerged who could be eligible for getting a Nobel Prize; and
- (e) what are the details of Government's plan for improving this overall situation?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI ARJUN SINGH): (a) to (e) Subject to finalization of the Eleventh Plan, the Gross Enrolment Ratio (GER) in higher Education is proposed to be increased to 15% by 2011-12

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.