

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI MD. ALI ASHRAF FATMI): (a) to (c) Based on the proposal received from the State Government, 25 Kasturba Gandhi Balika Vidyalaya (KGBV) schools have been sanctioned by the Government of India in Uttarakhand. Out of these, 13 KGBVs are reported to be operational in the State.

Arts and commerce streams in Kendriya Vidyalaya, Pithoragarh

†167. SHRI HARISH RAWAT: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether he is aware of the fact that the demand for starting Arts and Commerce streams in Kendriya Vidyalaya at Pithoragarh is being persistently made; and

(b) if so, the reasons for not commencing the classes of Arts and Commerce streams in this school till now and by when this stream would be started in this school?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI MD. ALI ASHRAF FATMI): (a) and (b) No proposal for opening of Arts and Commerce streams at Kendriya Vidyalaya (KV), Pithoragarh has been received by Kendriya Vidyalaya Sangathan (KVS) either from KV, Pithoragarh or from the Regional Office of KVS, Dehradun. However, Arts stream was sanctioned for the school during the current year, but the sanction had to be withdrawn' due to non-availability of required number of class rooms.

Poverty as the reason for drop out

†168. SHRI DATTA MEGHE: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that one reason of giving up study by the children under Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan is poverty;

(b) if so, the efforts being made by Government so that the children may not give up their study midway;

(c) whether complaints have been received regarding the arrangement of providing mid-day meals;

(d) if so, the steps taken for redressal of these complaints; and

(e) the steps taken by Government for successful implementation of the schemes like Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan And Kasturba Gandhi Balika Vidyalaya?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI MD. ALI ASHRAF FATMI): (a) and (b) Poverty is one of the various socio-economic and school related factors that affect drop-outs.

A number of schemes are being implemented to reduce drop-out rates and universalize elementary education, the main ones being Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan, Mid-day Meal Scheme and the Kasturba Gandhi Balika Vidyalayas.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi