

(a) whether CBSE has decided to remove the novel by the legendary litterateur Premchand from the class XII syllabus;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether it is a fact that the CBSE has decided to replace Premchand's novel by a work of Mridula Sinha; and

(d) if so, the criteria for selecting literary works to be included in the school syllabus?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DR. VALLABHABHAI RAMJIBHAI KATHIRIA): (a) to (c) As per the information received from the Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE), the Committee of Courses in Hindi has recommended to continue Nirmla by Premchand and also to provide an alternative for 2004 Examinations. Accordingly, the novel "Jyon Mehandi Ke Rang" by Mridula Sinha has also been recommended by the Committee for 2004 Examination.

(d) The decision regarding the replacement, alternative and prescription of new textual materials is made by the Committee of courses in Hindi of CBSE.

FDI in education sector

646. SHRI BACHANI LEKHRAJ: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that a large number of Indian students are going abroad for higher studies;

(b) if so, the approximate number of students going abroad for higher education, per year;

(c) whether Government are considering Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) in the education sector in order to draw more foreign students to India and make more education institutions accessible to Indian students; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DR. VALLABHBHAI RAMJIBHAI KATHIRIA): (a) to (d) Though the Government has no authentic information about the number of Indian students going abroad for high studies, with the economic and financial reforms set in motion by the Government, the students mobility across international boundaries has considerably increased during the recent years. The Government has taken cognisance of this development and with the twin objectives of promoting Indian education abroad and regulating operations of foreign educational institutions in India has recently constituted a committee called 'Committee for Promotion of Indian Education Abroad' (COPIE). One of the main functions of the COPIE is to develop, over a period of time, a sectoral policy on Foreign Direct Investment in the education sector.

Status of Central University to Sambalpur University

647. SHRI B.J. PANDA:
MS. PRAMILA BOHIDAR:

Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Sambalpur University at Jyoti Vihar in Orissa has not been granted the status of Central University, if so, the reasons therefor;

(b) whether it is also a fact that the syndicate of Sambalpur University has been repeatedly requesting the Centre to confer this status; and

(c) if so, whether the Centre propose to review their decision; if not the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DR. VALLABHBHAI RAMJIBHAI KATHIRIA): (a) and (b) A request of the Syndicate of the Sambalpur University, in this regard, was received through the Vice-Chancellor of Sambalpur University. This was, however, not agreed to because National Policy on Education (NPE) stipulates that, in view of the need to effect an all-round improvement in the institutions, the main emphasis will be on consolidation of and expansion of facilities in, the existing institution. Programme of Action (POA) also directs that, given the necessity to arrest the declining trend in the flow of plan funds from