

Central/State Governments. The Government has an extensive network of Short Stay Homes and Juvenile Homes for protection and rehabilitation of the victims. Government has also launched a new scheme known as 'Swadhar\*' for providing shelter, food, clothing, health care, pschyco-social counselling, vocational training and helpline services for rescued victims of commercial sexual exploitation.

**Delay in grant for JRF**

3206. SHRI H.K. JAVARE GOWDA: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that UGC has delayed in sanctioning grants to Junior Research Fellowship (Foreign Nationals Engineering and Technology and National Education Testing Qualified) during the year 2002-2003;

(b) whether the delay in sanctioning such grants is causing serious hardships for the scholars in carrying out the research work smoothly; and

(c) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT [DR. (SHRIMATI) RITA VERMA]: (a) to (c) According to the information furnished by the University Grants Commission (UGC), the UGC releases Junior Research Fellowship (JRF) grants to universities/colleges/institutes after the receipt of the Joining Report and the Eligibility Certificate duly signed and forwarded by the competent authority. Next instalment of grant is released after the receipt of Utilization Certificate/Statement of Expenditure of the full previous grants. Since some of the universities did not submit the Utilization Certificate, the grant to such universities was not released by the UGC. The universities have been requested by the UGC to submit the Utilization Certificates to enable it to release further instalment of grant.

**Sati incidents**

3207. SHRI K. RAMA MOHANA RAO:  
SHRI P.K. MAHESHWARI:

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

(a) the number of Sati incidents that took place in the country since 1996, year-wise and State-wise;

(b) whether Government are aware of the Sati incidence that took place in August in Panna district in Madhya Pradesh;

(c) whether it is a fact that Sati incidents are on the rise in the country;

(d) the number of people who have been arrested or punished under the Commission of Sati (Prevention) Act, 1987, since 1996, year-wise and State-wise; and

(e) the steps taken or proposed to be taken to prevent Sati in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT [DR. (SHRIMATI) RITA VERMA]: (a) to (c) As per the information available with the Government, only two cases of Sati were reported since 1996, one from Uttar Pradesh during the year 1997 and the other from Madhya Pradesh in 2002.

(d) Only one person was arrested under the Commission of Sati (Prevention) Act since 1996 and the person was acquitted by the court.

(e) Government had enacted the Commission of Sati (Prevention) Act, 1987. A proposal for amending the Act to make it more stringent is under consideration of the Government.

#### **Representation of NE in National History**

3208. DR. ARUN KUMAR SARMA: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to refer to answer to Unstarred Question 3422, given in the Rajya Sabha on the 26th April, 2002 and state:

(a) whether NCERT has taken any action to place the North East India in the national history, socio-culture, geography and other major NCERT Text Books; and

(b) if so, the details of the progress thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT [DR. (SHRIMATI) RITA VERMA]: (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. As per information available, NCERT has been making