

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news-item, captioned, "Government may revive FCI, HFC units in Bihar, West Bengal", appearing in 'Business Standard' dated 29th September, 2002;

(b) whether Government are reconsidering their decision to close down units of Sindri and Durgapur, as reported in the aforesaid news-item;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) if not, the reasons therefor;

(e) whether Government are also considering "delaying" the closure of these units, by at least a year, as reported in the news item; and

(f) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI SUKHDEV SINGH DHINDSA): (a) to (f) Yes, Sir, the news-item has appeared in the newspaper on 20.9.2002. The Government has taken a decision to close down FCI including Sindri unit excepting the Jodhpur Mining Organisation and HFC including Durgapur unit as the same have not been found techno-economically viable. The closure activities are in progress.

Disparities in UGC grants

*68. DR. P.C. ALEXANDER: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that 86 per cent of non-plan grants released by the UGC during 2000-2001, have gone to Central Universities and the Deemed Universities leaving the State Universities with only a marginal share of these funds;

(b) whether gross disparities also exist in the grant of non-plan assistance between colleges affiliated to Central Universities and those to the State Universities; and

(c) if the answer to parts (a) and (b) above be in the affirmative, whether the UGC would be asked to ensure that the State Universities

and the colleges affiliated to them get a more equitable share of these funds?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI): (a) to (c) According to the information furnished by the University Grants Commission (UGC), the UGC is providing Non-Plan grants to the Central Universities to meet their maintenance expenditure as Central Universities are established under Central Acts and the responsibility for meeting their maintenance expenditure rests exclusively with the Central Government. Besides, some Deemed Universities and some of the colleges of Delhi University and Banaras Hindu University also receive maintenance grants from UGC. State Universities are established under State Acts and their maintenance expenditure is met by the State Governments. Similarly, the responsibility of meeting the maintenance expenditure of colleges of State Universities rests with the agencies concerned with establishment and running of such colleges.

Accordingly, share of Central Universities, Deemed Universities and colleges of Central Universities is predominantly high out of the total Non-Plan grants released by UGC. However, State Universities also receive small Non-Plan grants from UGC for specific purposes.

Athletic tracks in Himachal Pradesh

*69. SHRI ANIL SHARMA: Will the Minister of YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have received any proposal from Himachal Pradesh Government for construction of athletic tracks in Bilaspur, Kangra and Mandi;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof; and

(c) what action Government have taken /propose to take in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS (SHRI VIKRAM VERMA): (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. The details of proposals regarding athletic tracks, received during the last 5 years i.e. from