

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT [DR. (SHRIMATI) RITA VERMA]: (a) to (c) As per the information furnished by the Department of Science and Technology, they are attaching vital importance to the encouragement of women in Science and Technology and are implementing various schemes such as Science & Technology for Women, Biotechnology based Programme for Women, Golden Jubilee Biotech Park for Women, and Women Bio-Scientist Award. The Department of Science and Technology propose to encourage women working in the field of Science and technology through special incentives such as Scholarships, Fellowships and Awards. Additionally, the Department of Science & Technology also propose to introduce special gender sensitive features in these schemes through flexible timings, leave options and entry level age relaxation. The Department of Biotechnology has instituted three National Women Bio-Scientist Awards for recognising contributions made by Women Scientists in the area of Biology and Biotechnology.

(d) As per the figures available, as on 1st April 1998, 37,673 scientist and technocrat women were employed in Research & Development establishments in the country.

Arbitrary donations and fees in private schools and technical institutes

†5468. DR. PRBHA THAKUR: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether taking of arbitrary donations and fees by private schools and technical education institutes, for admission in such schools and institutes is legitimate;

(b) whether any limit for free from students of each class of private schools has been fixed; and

(c) if so, the details of steps taken by Government to curb such arbitrary recoveries by educational institutes?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT [DR. (SHRIMATI) RITA VERMA]: (a) to (c) 'Education' is in the Concurrent List of the Constitution and school education is primarily the concern of the State/Union Territory Governments. Private schools are governed by State laws and rules.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

The approved Technical Institutes are under the control of the All India Council for Technical Education (AICTE). As per the Regulations issued by the AICTE, no professional institute is authorized to received from the students any other payment or amount, by whatever name it may be called in addition to the fees fixed by the State Level Committee for free seats as well as for the payment seats.

Upliftment of children

5469. SHRI VIJAY J. DARDA: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have not been able to achieve the targets committed at the 1990 World Summit for Children, as brought out in a news-item in Times of India, dated 19th April, 2002;

(b) if so, the reasons contributing to lack of required facilities, as revealed in the report of the UN Secretary General; and

(c) what steps have been proposed to be taken to create adequate facilities for the upliftment of children and their proper care?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI SUMITRA MAHAJAN): (a) India has made steady progress in several sectors in achieving the targets committed at the World Summit on children held in 1990. The areas in which the improvement has been made are as under:

1. Under five mortality rate: per thousand live births, has come down from 109 (1992-93) (NFHS I) to 94.9 (1998-1999) (NFHS II).
2. Infant mortality rate: per thousand live births has declined from 80 (1990) (SRS) to 68 (1998-99) (NFHS II).
3. Underweight prevalence has slided from 53.4% (1992-93) (NFHS I) to 47% (1998-99) (NFHS II).
4. School attendance, age 6—14 (female) has gone up from 59% (1992-93) (NFHS I) to 74% (1998-1999) (NFHS II).
5. School attendance, age 6—14 (male) went up from 75.5% (1992-93) (NFHS I) to 84% (1998-1999) (NFHS II).