

Out of school and jobless

90,000 unemployed, but Government has plans to help them

THERE are some 90,000 school-leavers as well as college and university graduates who are unemployed.

Deputy Human Resources Minister Datuk Abdul Rahman Bakar also said that more than 300,000 had looked for and secured jobs overseas.

The countries where they found jobs included Singapore, Japan and the United States as well as those in Europe and the Middle East, he said.

"Even in Dubai, I saw many job opportunities and there are Malaysian companies with projects there," he said in reply to a supplementary question by Datuk Mohd Razak Che Mat (BN

Kuala Krai).

Of the total unemployed, Abdul Rahman said 50,000 were SPM school-leavers, 20,000 college graduates and 20,000 university graduates.

"The figures have actually gone down because of various schemes to help them get jobs as well as new job offers especially by the Public Services Department which opened up more than 30,000 new vacancies," he said.

He said that on average, college and university graduates were unemployed for a year.

He said some had difficulties in getting jobs because of attitude problems and the lack of

soft skills such as communication skills.

"To tackle these problems, we have taken several short- and long-term measures including providing various skills-training (programmes) to increase marketability and employability, and job-matching assistance.

Meanwhile, the House was also told that the Government had no plan to close down or merge schools that had a small number of students - regardless of whether they were national or vernacular schools - without prior consultation.

Education Ministry parlia-

mentary secretary P. Komala Devi said consultations would first be held with the relevant schools and community if such actions were required in the future.

"It does not matter if it is a national, Chinese or Tamil school. We will first find out if those affected were willing to change schools or if there were other schools nearby.

"So far only two schools have been merged, one in Sabah and the other in Sarawak," she said in reply to a question by Mohd Daud Tarihep (BN - Kuala Selangor).