

harbour of Mormugao will be destroyed. The whole city will be destroyed. Therefore, I urge upon the Government to see that the whole terminal is shifted from Vasco-da-Garna. They can retain the pumping station at the present site. I think they need some land and there is excess land in that area acquired by a multinational firm. That land has not been used for the purpose for which it was acquired at a cheap rate. Now this firm is negotiating with the I.O.C. to sell it at the market rate. I think it is not permissible. If the land was not put to the use for which it was acquired, I think the State Government should take it over and give it to the I.O.C. I would request the Minister of Petroleum and Natural Gas to have a dialogue with the State Government of Goa and see to it that I. O.C. is given the land so that shifting of this terminal can be done at Zuari Nagar plateau at the earliest.

Difficulties faced by Importers of Books and Scientific Journals at I.G. International Airport due to lack of coordination between Customs Authorities and Airport Authorities

SHRI TRILOKI NATH CHATUR-VEDI (Uttar Pradesh): Madam, I would like to draw the attention of the Government to a matter which I consider is of great importance for the country. It is also important because it shows that there is lack of coordinations between various agencies despite their good intentions. Recently, it has come to the notice of people, especially those who are interested in books, that the Delhi Book Sellers' Association has stopped the import of books because of the difficulties faced at the Indira Gandhi International Airport. I don't want to go into the details. I would like to mention one or two things. Earlier the Airport authorities used to give one week for the clearance of consignments. Now they have reduced it to two or three days which I appreciate because the Airport authorities have to optimise the space. But there are other ground realities which have to be taken into account.

Most of the flights in Delhi land between 11 p.m. and 3 a.m. If a flight lands at 11 p.m., it means one day is already gone. Thereafter, the clearance of the Customs authorities is also required, though books come under duty free items. But the Customs Department, as a custom or as a ritual or for security reasons or to check that there are no illegal things, has to open some of the packages. It creates a lot of difficulties. It means 3,000 journals are stocked there. If journals are brought by a ship, naturally, they become outdated. Madam, even in the best of situations, it takes more than one day to complete formalities at the level of importers and the clearing agents. Then they have to move to the Customs Department. Everybody has full sympathy with the book traders. But somehow or the other there is no coordination between the Airport authorities and the Customs authorities. Sometimes, the inspector is not available. We can always say that this does not happen in Singapore or in New York. But there the Customs Inspector is present as a part of his duty to help them. But here it is these people who have to pursue these things. As a result, a lot of difficulties are being faced by the book traders. I need not go into all the details. Even they have enhanced demurrage charges. I think it is 200 per cent per day. It becomes all the more difficult because books are treated as packets. A packet of one kilogram may be of Rs. 5 lakhs but one book may be of hardly Rs. 1000/-. As a result, the book sellers and publishers are facing these difficulties. Even some very prestigious national dailies have written on this issue. Incidentally, the Minister of Human Resource Development is sitting here. He being a Professor of Physics, would like to ensure that journals and books which are needed come to the country in time.

3.00 P.M.

And this kind of a hassle between the customs authorities and the airport authorities must be sorted out.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: It is a good suggestion. We all support you. If you have any difficulty, write to me and I will pursue it because I also read books. Mr. Joyanta Roy. Will you be brief?

SHRI JOYANTA ROY (West Bengal): I will have to elaborate on several issues.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Then you may speak tomorrow. I see that it is a very good subject. It will be better if you speak tomorrow. Otherwise, I will keep ringing the bell and I don't want to disturb your deliberations.

प्रो. विजय कुमार मल्होत्रा (दिल्ली): इससे पहले कि एच. आर. डी. मिनिस्ट्री की ग्रांट्स पर डिस्कशन शुरू हो, आज इसको समाप्त करने का तय हुआ था। चूंकि दो बजे शुरू होना था और 5 घंटे की बहस है, 7 बजे तक बहस होगी और फिर मंत्री महोदय को जवाब देना है। तो अब 3 बजे से शुरू हो रही है, 8 बजे तक बहस चलेगी। तो मेरा अनुरोध था कि अगर मंत्री महोदय कल उत्तर दे दें और आज यह बहस पूरी हो जाए तो ज्यादा उपयुक्त होगा और पूरे सदस्य अच्छी तरह से इस पर बोल पाएंगे।

मानव संसाधन विकास मंत्री तथा विज्ञान और प्रौद्योगिकी मंत्री (डा. मुरली मनोहर जोशी): मैं भी इससे सहमत हूँ।

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: If the House agrees, the Minister can reply tomorrow. Otherwise, at 8 o'clock, if the Minister replies, I doubt if there will be many people in the House to hear his reply.

SHRI VAYALAR RAVI (Kerala): Since the Minister himself is yielding, we have no objection to it. But it should not take the time of the other subjects.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Actually the -lunch hour is encroached upon by many other unexpected items of business. That is why every day we are starting late. Otherwise, we could have continued with the discussion yesterday itself. No Shri Rajagopal to continue his speech. Your party has 51 minutes and there are five names. Everybody has to get equal time.

DISCUSSION ON THE WORKING OF THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT—contd.

SHRI O. RAJAGOPAL (Madhya Pradesh): Madam, I am aware of my limitations regarding time. I will try to confine myself to certain salient features and I leave it to my colleagues to deal with the rest of the issues.

One salient feature on which I would like to compliment the Government is the way in which they have hiked the amount allotted for education. This time there is an increase of nearly 50 per cent as compared to last year. In the Revised Estimates of 1997-98, the allocation was Rs. 4,716 crores. But this year the Budget has provided for education Rs. 7,047 crores. This is nearly 50 per cent increase as compared to last year. When we look back, even in the Eighth Five Year Plan, we find that the Central allocation had been only to the extent of Rs. 7,443 crores. So, this time we have allotted more or less the same amount that was spent in the previous Plan period altogether. This is necessary because we find that the type of progress which we had wanted in the educational field has not been achieved. In the year 1950-51, the literacy rate was 18 per cent and the female, literacy rate was around 9 per cent. Now as per the latest Census figure available, namely 1991, it has gone up to only 51 per cent and the female literacy has gone up to only 39 per cent. In the new Education Policy, they had visualised that by the turn of the century, there would be total literacy. But now we have reached only 51 per cent. Therefore, the hike is justified and it is a welcome phenomenon. It is also important to note that out of the total amount set apart for education, 65.45 per cent is allotted for primary education. It is a welcome phenomenon. Now, a lot of money has been spent. I find that in the course of the last eight Plans, the number of schools actually had gone up from 2.23 lakhs to 7.61 lakhs, which is about three times. The number of teachers also had gone up from 5.74 lakhs to 29.05 lakhs,