

educationally backward districts of Rajasthan during the current financial year;

(d) whether Government intend to introduce any new schemes during 1998-99 for removal of illiteracy in both Rajasthan and Orissa; and

(e) if so, details thereof till date, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI): (a) and (b) The literacy data in the country is collected through the decennial census operations. As per the 1991 Census, the Literacy rate in the country and in the States of Rajasthan and Orissa, is as follows:

India:	52.21%
Rajasthan:	38.55%
Orissa:	49.09%

The State of Rajasthan ranks second from the bottom, above the State of Bihar, in the list of States and Union Territories.

(c) and (d) No, Sir.

(e) Does not arise.

#### **Wages of Anganwadi Workers**

4238. SHRI CO. POULOSE: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Anganwadi workers and helpers (ICDS) are demanding higher wages in view of the low earnings they are having;

(b) if so, what is the existing wage level in different States and what is the demand made by the Union; and

(c) the steps taken by Government on their demand?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DR. \*MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI): (a) Yes, Sir. Anganwadi Workers are demanding higher honorarium. „

(b) The Anganwadi Workers are paid honorarium which ranges between Rs. 438/- and Rs. 563/-p.m. depending on their educational qualifications and length of honorary work. The helpers are paid a fixed honorarium of Rs. 260/-p.m. Various representations have been received for declaring them as Government employees.

(c) Honorarium was last revised w.e.f. 16.5.1997.

The boarding the lodging charges for attending training programmes is also under process of upward revision.

They are voluntary workers. There is no proposal to declare them Government employees.

#### **Teacher-student Ratio in Training College**

4239. SHRI A. VIJAY RAGHAVAN: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have taken any decision to change the teacher-student ratio for Training Colleges;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) whether Government will give instruction to National Council for Teacher Education, (NCTE) to change their decision regarding the teacher-student ratio?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI): (a) to (c) The National Council for Teacher Education (application for recognition, manner for submission, determination of conditions for recognition of institutions and permission to start new course on training) Regulations, 1995 have prescribed teacher-student ratios for teacher education institutions. There is no proposal at present to issue