

EDUCATION AND DEPARTMENT OF CULTURE) (KUMARI SELJA): (a) The total Revenue Expenditure on education by Education Departments of Centre and States in 1993-94(RE) is about 3.5 percent of GNP.

(b) While there is no international norm, India's expenditure on education as percentage of GNP compares favourably with other developing countries.

(c) Social sector spending has not decreased. Total Central Plan outlay for major schemes of Social Sectors has increased by 45.54 percent from Rs. 9387 crores in 1993-94(BE) to Rs. 13662 crores in 1995-96(BE) as against the price rise of 28.5 percent during the same period.

(d) Faster economic Growth coupled with restructuring of Central and State budgets would enable achieving the goal of raising public outlay on education to six percent of GNP.

Memorandums submitted by Dalit Christian Association

1219. SHRI V. GOPALSAMY: Will the Minister of WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of memorandum submitted by Dalit Christian Associations/Organisations to Government till date;

(b) the contents of these memoranda; and

(c) steps taken by Government to implement these demands?

THE MINISTER OF WELFARE (SHRI SITARAM KESRI): (a) and (b) A large number of representations from Dalit Christian Associations/Organisations demanding Scheduled Caste status and extension of reservation benefit as SCs have been received.

(c) The matter relating to extension of Scheduled Caste status to the Christians of Scheduled Caste origin is under consideration of the Government. In so far as the reservation in services is

concerned, the Scheduled Caste converts to Christianity are eligible as OBC in the States of Andhra Pradesh, Assam, Bihar, Gujarat, Karnataka, Kerala, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Punjab, Tamil Nadu and UTs of Pondicherry and Daman & Diu. Reservation benefit in the services of Central Government and its Public Sector Undertakings is available to this community w.e.f. 8th September, 1993 under OBC category.

Newsitem on Honouring of Mathematician

1220. SHRI INDER KUMAR GUJRAL: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to a report captioned Mathematician honoured abroad, ignored at home which appeared in the Asian Age dated the 20th September, 1995; and

(b) if so, Government's reaction thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION AND DEPARTMENT OF CULTURE) (KUMARI SELJA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Dr. G.P. Mishra worked in the Indian Institute of Technology, Delhi as a research fellow. He could not be selected for the regular teaching post. No other details about him are known.

Updating of Text Books by NCERT

1221. SHRI RAJUBHAI A. PARMAR:
SHRIMATI VEENA VERMA:
SHRI SUSHILKUMAR
SAMBHAJIRAO SHINDE:

Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Executive Council of National Council of Educational Research and Training at its meeting on July 20, 1995 considered the need for updating the text books;

(b) if so, in which specific areas and subjects, the need for such upgradation was observed; and

(c) the steps Governments propose to take to update the NCERT text books?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DEPTT. OF EDUCATION) (DR. KRUPASINDHU BHOI): (a) to (c) The Executive Committee of the National Council of Educational Research and Training (NCERT) in its meeting held on 19th July, 1995 desired that NCERT should update the curriculum and teaching/ learning material of the course in computer education every year in order to keep pace with the latest developments. The Council proposes to update textual/learning material in computer education on receiving feedback from the users.

Loss of Production due to non-Supply of Natural Gas to Namrup Units of HFC

1222. SHRI DIPANKAR MUKHERJEE:
SHRI NILOTPAL BASU:

Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) the production loss suffered by Namrup unit during 1994-95 and in six months from April to September, 1995 due to inadequate supply of Natural Gas;

(b) whether OIL and ONGC are making fresh commitment to supply gas to other industrial units/companies while failing to augment the gas supply to HFC, Namrup; and

(c) the remedial action taken by the ministry to ensure requisite amount of gas to Namrup unit?

THE MINISTER OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI RAM LAKHAN SINGH YADAV): (a) It has been estimated by HFC that there was a production loss of 4.7 lakh tonnes of urea

in the Namrup units of HFC during 1994-95 and April-September, 1995 due to limitation in supply of natural gas.

(b) ONGC and OIL are supplying gas only to units which have been allocated gas by the Government.

(c) The supply to HFCL is being increased in the short term by connecting up sources of low pressure gas. OIL is examining the proposals to develop its free gas reserves.

Review of National Literacy Mission

1223. SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN: SHRI VIREN J. SHAH:

Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have reviewed the functioning of the National Literacy Mission in the country (State-wise);

(b) if so, the details in this regard;

(c) whether there are any villages in Maharashtra and Gujarat which do not have primary schools;

(d) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor; and

(e) the details of central assistance given to these States during each of the last three years to set up primary schools in such villages?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DEPTT. OF EDUCATION AND DEPTT. OF CULTURE) (KUMARI SELJA): (a) and (b) The functioning of the Literacy Programmes in various States, sanctioned by the National Literacy Mission, is reviewed regularly and is a continuing process.

(c) and (d) As per norms, the State Governments are expected to provide primary schooling facilities to the habitation with a population of 300 or more within a distance of one kilometre