

Computer Education in Schools and Colleges

1388. **SHRI JAGIR SINGH DARD:**
DR. SHRIKANT RAM
CHANDRA
JICHKAR:

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

(a) whether Government are aware that Computer in Education Project, Information Footpath project and Bibliographic Data Base Project can be given to schools and colleges under the MPLADS;

(b) if so, what are the other concessions and facilities which can be given to schools which have taken up this projects; and

(c) what steps are being taken to encourage computer education in schools and colleges?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT: (SHRI MUHI RAM SAIKIA): (a) and (b) The Department of Electronics in consultation with the Department of Programme Implementation, has formulated the following five projects in the area of electronics under the "Members of Parliament Local Area Development" (MPLAD) Scheme:

1. computer in Education Project: computer in Every High School.
2. Information footpath.
3. HAM Club in every High School.
4. Citizen Band Radio.
5. Bibliographic Data Base Project.

(c) The following steps have been taken by the Government to encourage computer education in Schools and colleges:—

(e) (i) Under the Centrally sponsored Scheme 'Computer Literacy and Studies in Schools', 2801 Secondary/Senior Secondary Schools have been provided financial assistance for procurement of computer hardware and engagement of implementing agencies.

(ii) The University Grants Commission has provided financial assistance to 1983 Colleges for procuring computer hardware and their maintenance. The Commission has also provided assistance for conducting 109 programmes in computer education in 34 Universities.

Enquiry into the affairs of Asiatic Society

1389. **SHRI ASHOK MITRA:** Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the nature of representation received from different sources requesting investigation into the affairs of the Asiatic Society in Calcutta;

(b) whether any enquiry has been ordered in response to these representations; and

(c) the steps Government propose to take to protect the reputation and scholastic tradition of the Society?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI S. R. BOMMAI): (a) In the recent past the Department of Culture has received three representations/communications:—

(i) from Chief Minister, West Bengal, voicing his concern about the charges of inefficiency, nepotism and corruption against the present office bearers of the governing council of the Asiatic Society;

(ii) from asiatic Society Employees' Union alleging abuse of power in various ways by the present office-bearers of the Society; and

(iii) From Shri Syed Shahabuddin, former M.P., who has also drawn attention towards the malfunctioning of the Asiatic Society suggesting simultaneously that the Government should constitute a Committee to suggest amendments to the Asiatic Society Act, 1984 which should balance autonomy with accountability.

(b) and (c) The matter is being attended to on priority basis and suitable steps will be taken as early as possible.