

(e) the financial outlay sanctioned for this purpose?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DEPARTMENT OF YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS) (SHRI MUKUL WASNIK): (a) No, Sir. The State Government and local agencies have to take the initiative to provide swimming pool and other sports facilities in the districts. Central Government can render matching assistance to State Governments on receipt of viable proposals.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Departmental Examination for Group D Employees

3412. SHRI SARADA MOHANTY: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is no provision for Departmental Examination for Group 'D' employees of Kendriya Vidyalayas for their recruitment as LDCs through direct intake;

(b) if so, what is the justification thereof;

(c) whether the Sangathan is considering a proposal to introduce the same in the rules; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION AND DEPARTMENT OF CULTURE) (KUMARI SELJA): (a) to (d) In accordance with the Recruitment Rules for the post of LDC in Kendriya Vidyalaya Sangathan. 90% posts are filled-up by direct recruitment and 10% by promotion from amongst Group 'D' who possess the requisite qualifications for the post. Group 'D' employees of Sangathan can also compete with outsiders for 90% posts meant for direct recruitment. The Group 'D' employees are given age relaxation as per rules.

Rise in Illiterates in the Country

3413. SHRIMATI KAMLA SINHA: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that India today produces the largest number of illiterates in the world;

(b) whether it is also a fact the though the literacy rate has improved since independence, the absolute number of illiterates has increased from 294 million in 1951 to 482 million in 1991; and

(c) if so, what steps Government have taken or propose to take to ensure the implementation of Article 45 of the Constitution which makes primary education compulsory for every child.

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION AND DEPARTMENT OF CULTURE): (KUMARI SELJA): (a) and (b) The literacy rate in the country has increased from 18.33% in 1951 to 52.21% in 1991. As per the 1961 census, the number of illiterates in the age group 5 and above was 267.32 million and the number of literates was 105.52 million. As per the 1991 census the number of illiterates and literates in the relevant age group (revised to 7 and above) have both gone upto 323.88 million and 359.28 million respectively. The number of literates has gone up by 253.76 million while the number of illiterates has gone up by 61.56 million in this period. Though there are no official statistics regarding the number of illiterates in various countries, according to some estimates, our number of illiterates continues to be the largest in the world.

(c) The National Policy on Education as revised in 1992 resolves that elementary education of satisfactory quality is to be provided to all children upto 14 years of age before the turn of the century. Towards this end, a disaggregated approach will be adopted through district planning. In addition, the following are the main strategies:—

- (i) Adoption of alternative channels of schooling like voluntary schools and Non-Formal Education (NFE) centres for those who cannot avail of conventional full-time schooling.
- (ii) Microplanning through involvement of teachers and the community in order to design and implement a family-wise child plan of action for universal access/enrolment and participation.
- (iii) Making parents aware about their responsibility for ensuring the completion of elementary education by their children and for providing at home the facilities and encouragement needed for this purpose.
- (iv) Establishment of linkages between programmes of pre-school and primary education, and between programmes of literacy and Universalisation of Elementary Education (UEE) in total literacy campaign districts.
- (v) Improvement of school facilities through revamped Operation Blackboard and connecting it to Minimum Levels of Learning (MLL) strategy. It will also be extended to upper primary stage.
- (vi) Decentralization of educational management for making the schools function so as to ensure universal enrolment retention and achievement.
- (vii) Introduction of MLLs at primary and upper primary stages including coverage of the non-formal education channel.
- (viii) Revision of process and content of elementary education to make teaching-learning child centred, activity based and joyful.
- (ix) Modification of teacher learning programmes in view of changed strategies and programmes.

Opening of Canadian Study Centre

3114. SHRIMATI KAMLA SINHA : Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that the University Grants Commission has permitted the opening of Canadian Study Centres at several Universities ;

(b) if so, what is the financial commitment of the University Grants Commission towards the establishment and continuing maintenance of these centre ;

(c) what are the reasons for embarking on such enterprises in the content of the highly published resource crunch in the University Grants Commission ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION AND DEPARTMENT OF CULTURE) (KUMARI SELJA) : (a) Yes, Sir. The University Grants Commission have selected 13 Universities for setting up Development of Canadian Studies Centres to carry out studies related to the historical, social, economic and political aspects of Canada.

(b) The Universities, where these Centres have been started, are placed in categories I, II and III for the purposes of level of financial support. The financial assistance to them is as below :—

Level I (i) Rs. 2,00,000 per annum (recurring)
(ii) Rs. 60,000 per annum(non-recurring)

Level II (i) Rs. 1,20,000 per annum (recurring)
(ii) Rs. 30,000 per annum (non-recurring)

Level III (i) Rs. 55,000 per annum (recurring).