

conduct a Survey of the Puri Temple for its renovation. They have only a suggestion for the use of some modern techniques for the deplastering of the temple.

(b) On the recommendations of the Expert Committee, the steps taken for the proper conservation of the Jagannath Temple Puri are as follows :

(i) Removal of accretionary plaster from the surface of the main temple.

(ii) Replacement of the cracked/damaged stone members with new ones and consolidation of the structure.

(iii) Replacement of corroded iron clamps/dowels with non-corrosive ones.

(iv) Grouting of cracks/fissures on the structure.

(v) Chemical treatment and preservation of the exposed surface.

(c) Does not arise.

Female infanticide in Tamil Nadu

834. SHRI SHIV PRATAP MISHRA : Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government are aware of the widespread practice of female infanticide in Tamil Nadu; and

(b) if so, the measures Government have taken or propose to take to curb this malpractice ?

MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI ARJUN SINGH) : (a) Government is aware of the practice of female infanticide among a few communities in certain pockets of Salem District of Tamil Nadu.

(b) The following measures have been taken by the State Government to curb this practice :—

(i) As an immediate step, a reception centre to receive abandoned female children has been set up at Usilampatti, Madurai on 1-8-90. The babies are looked after and are subsequently given in adoption.

(ii) A counselling Centre at Usilampatti, Madurai is being assisted by Govt. of Tamil Nadu to educate the women regarding the evils of female infanticide. This Centre works in close cooperation with schools and girl students and is exposed to the latest development in the field of training and employment through talks, seminars, and films. The women are also motivated to organise themselves and undertake income generating activities.

(iii) Recently in Salem Distt. Govt. of Tamil Nadu have launched a Scheme wherein Rs. 2000/- will be deposited in a public account in the name of the first or second girl child as the case may be whose parents have undergone sterilisation.

(iv) Cradles have been put up in select places for leaving unwanted babies who will be taken care of by the State Govt.

(v) While the Govt. is taking steps to bring about awareness among the people and also improve the status of the women, action under the relevant laws is also being taken to curb the menace of female infanticide.

The Central Government is closely monitoring the situation. It has received a request for assistance from a voluntary organisation which has been forwarded to the Central Social Welfare Board.

Charging of Capitation Fee by Government Recognised/Aided Schools

835. SHRI SHIV PRATAP MISHRA : Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government are aware of the fact that some Government recognised/aided schools situated in Union Territory of Delhi still charge capitation fee for admissions; and

(b) if so, what steps Government propose to take in this regard ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION AND DEPARTMENT OF CULTURE) (KUMARI SELJA) :

(a) and (b) Delhi Administration have reported that they are not aware of collection of capitation fee for admission by