

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI ARJUN SINGH): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) As per information given by the Delhi Administration, no report regarding non-implementation of direction has been received by them.

(c) Does not arise.

Steel Depot in Assam

*336. SHRIMATI BIJOYA CHAKRAVARTY: Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to establish a steel depot in Assam in view of the acute shortage of steel products; and

(b) if so, whether such depot is proposed to be established at Tinsukia/Bongaigaon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV): (a) and (b) Opening of a stockyard is proposed by SAIL at Jhalukbari, near Guwahati on Broad Gauge. A plot of land measuring approximately 20 acres has been identified for the larger stockyard and SAIL has requested the Government of Assam to take necessary steps for the acquisition of the said plot of land.

The Visakhapatnam Steel Plant (VSP) is also establishing a consignment agency at Guwahati in Assam. The preliminary process has just been started.

आंगनवाड़ी कामगारों को दिया गया भोजन

*337. सरदार जगजीत सिंह अरोड़ा :
श्री राम जेठमलानी :

का चानच संसाधन विकास मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) क्या सरकार का ध्यान 24 नवम्बर, 1991 "हिंदू" में "वेड

फूड सप्लाई टु आंगनवाड़ीज" शीर्षक के अन्तर्गत प्रकाशित समाचार को और गया है ;

(ख) यदि हां, तो इस संबंध में ब्यांरा क्या है ; और

(ग) स्थिति में सुधार करने के लिये क्या कदम उठाये गये हैं ?

मानव संसाधन विकास मंत्री (श्री अर्जुन सिंह) : (क) जी, हां।

(ख) रिपोर्ट में बताया गया है कि जिन कम्पनियों से करार किया गया था, वे लगभग दो वर्षों तक या तो खाली वस्तुओं की सप्लाई नहीं कर रही थीं अथवा अनियमित रूप से सप्लाई कर रही थीं अथवा वे निम्नस्तर की खाली सामग्री सप्लाई कर रही थीं। लाभ प्राप्तकर्ताओं को वह सामग्री लेना मंजूर नहीं था अथवा मनुष्यों द्वारा उपभोग किये जाने के वह काबिल नहीं था।

(ग) भारत सरकार ने, इस संबंध में उच्च स्तरीय प्रशासनिक जांच किये जाने के आदेश दिये हैं। दिल्ली प्रशासन ने एक फर्म का नाम ब्लैक लिस्ट में रख दिया है और इस फर्म की सविदायें रद्द कर दी हैं। सप्लाई बहाल करने के लिये नई निविदायें आमंत्रित की गई हैं। गुणवत्ता सुनिश्चित करने के लिये आबधिक नमूना परीक्षण हेतु एक प्रणाली भी शुरू कर दी गई है।

Supply of free books and other Study Materials to Poor Students

*338. SHRI S. S. AHLUWALIA: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that books and other study materials are provided free of cost in the Government-run/aided schools to its students belonging to families below the poverty line, besides those from Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes categories;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the income-limit specified for determining the eligibility of a student for availing of free books and study materials for below the poverty line category; and

(d) what is the basis therefor?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI ARJUN SINGH): (a) to (d) As per information given in the Fifth All

India Educational Survey (Reference dated 30-9-1986), the number of primary and upper primary schools in the States and Union Territories covered under various incentives schemes like provision of free textbooks, free uniforms and mid-day meals, to the students of indigent families or those belonging to the Scheduled Castes/Scheduled Tribes and the number of students receiving such benefits, are given below:

Schemes	No. of schools	Beneficiaries
PRIMARY SCHOOLS		
1. Free textbooks	3,12,832	2,01,78,299 (22.28%)
2. Free uniforms	2,47,772	1,10,38,911 (12.7%)
3. Mid-day meals	1,46,798	1,35,97,136 (15.68%)
UPPER PRIMARY SCHOOLS		
1. Free textbooks	71,010	10,27,453 (3.77%)
2. Free uniforms	48,384	42,76,821 (15.72%)
3. Mid-day meals	33,583	70,59,214 (25.95%)

(Note: Figures in brackets give the percentage of beneficiaries out of the total number of enrolled children at that stage).

In respect of students of 261 residential Navodaya Vidyalayas run by the Central Government for the talented children predominantly from the rural areas all expenses including board and lodging, uniforms, textbooks, stationery and rail bus fare from and to their home stations are free. As per the latest data available, 77.36 per cent of the students of Navodaya Vidyalayas are from rural areas. 20.18 per cent of the students of Navodaya Vidyalayas belong to Scheduled Castes and 11.21 per cent to the Scheduled Tribes.

The income limit specified in determining the eligibility of a student for availing of these benefits and the basis thereof vary from State to State. The students of Navodaya Vidyalayas receive the benefits irrespective of their parental income.

Foreign Seed Companies in Indian Market

*339. SHRI MENTAY PADMANABHAM. Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that foreign seed companies have started dominating the Indian market after the recent liberalisation move;

(b) if so, what steps Government have initiated to ensure that large multi-nationals with immensely greater resources do not control the seed market in the agricultural sector; and

(c) what is the monitoring machinery available to suggest necessary safeguards?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI BALRAM JAKHAR):

(a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Safeguards have been provided under the New Policy on Seed. Development which came into force in October, 1988. The working of the policy is reviewed from time to time.