

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (DR. RAJA RAMANNA): (a) while there are reports that the Sri Lankan Government are assessing the feasibility of establishing a Naval Base at Kach-cha Thivu Island, no construction activity by Sri Lanka has come to the notice of this Government.

(b) The Government of India keep a close watch on the developments in the neighbourhood that may have a bearing on the security of the country and take adequate measures to ensure full defence preparedness at all times.

(c) There is *no* proposal to under. take the Sedhu Samudra Project as a Defence Project.

Vesting powers of search and seizure with forest officials

780. DR. NARREDDY THULASI REDDY: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal under Government's consideration to vest forest officials with police powers of search, seizure and arrest of poachers; and

(b) if, so, what are the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRIMATI MANEKA GANDHI): (a) and (b). Section 50 of the Wild Life (Protection) Act, 1972 provides for vesting in Forest Officers powers of search, seizure and arrest of any person against whom there are reasonable grounds for believing that he has committed an offence under the Act, unless he

furnishes his name and address and otherwise satisfies the officer arresting him that he> will duly answer any summons or other proceedings which may be taken against him.

Villages without primary schools

781. SHRI VIREN J. SHAH: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) what is the number of villages which do not have a primary school at present, Statewise, and what was this number during each of the last three years; and

(b) whether there is any plan to cover these villages for primary education; if so, what are the targets for the current year and for each of the next three years, Statewise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI CHIMANBHAI MEHTA): (a) The state-wise figures of habitations with a population of 300 or more that do not have a primary school within walking distance of 1 km. are given in the enclosed statement. (See be-ilow). These figures pertain to 1986. Later statistics are not available.

(b) State Governments are expected to ensure that all habitations with a population of 300 (200 in case of tribal, hilly and desert areas) are provided with a primary school. Opening of primary schools is a continuous process undertaken by the State Governments taking into account factors including availability of resources in the State Plans. The Central Government neither opens such schools nor does it have any scheme to support such activity.

Statement

Habitation with population 300 or more not served by Primary Schools/Sections within 1 Km. walking distance

Sl. No.	State/Union Territory	Total number of Habitations	Habitations Unserved
1.	Andhra Pradesh	35245	328
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	574	70
3.	Assam	21579	1573
4.	Bihar	63131	3125
5.	Goa	1037	87
6.	Gujarat	19798	152
7.	Haryana	6456	77
8.	Himachal Pradesh	3587	380
9.	Jammu & Kashmir	5807	345
10.	Karnataka	26055	688
11.	Kerala	6066	707
12.	Madhya Pradesh	51108	2203
13.	Maharashtra	36910	602
14.	Manipur	1262	23
15.	Meghalaya	1566	66
16.	Mizoram	407	7
17.	Nagaland	709	3
18.	Orissa	29333	1103
19.	Punjab	10763	45
20.	Rajasthan	28746	2636
21.	Sikkim	346	33
22.	Tamil Nadu	32071	1463
23.	Tripura	2372	315
24.	Uttar Pradesh	102238	14302
25.	West Bngali	42230	1389
26.	A & N Islands	171	20
27.	Chandigarh	21	00
28.	Dadra & Nagar Haveli	99	10
29.	Daman & Diu	45	3
30.	Delhi	199	00
31.	Lak	6	00
32.	Pondicherry	239	5
	ALL INDIA	530176	31758

Data based on Fifth All India Educational Survey, 1986.