

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) A substantial portion of the time on the close circuit Television systems at Railway stations is devoted to providing railway information to the waiting public. Inclusion of commercial advertisements in addition to this, is in the financial interests of the Railways. It would not be correct to say that this creates any distraction for the public.

(d) Does not arise in view of (c) above.

Development of airports in the country

*36. SHRI J. P. GOYAL: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are considering a proposal to develop some of the airports in the country by providing landing facilities for international flights;

(b) if so, what are the names thereof and the progress so far made in this respect;

(c) by when these airports are proposed to be so developed and opened to international traffic; and

(d) whether these airports are proposed to be declared as international airports?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER): (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. Studies have been conducted for Ahmedabad, Bangalore, Nagpur, Mangalore, Trivandrum and Hyderabad. Out of these, international services from Trivandrum and Hyderabad are already being operated. Introducing limited international services from some of these airports in the near future is under consideration.

(d) There is no proposal at present to declare any airport as international airport in addition to the existing four international airports.

Expenditure of Education

*37. SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN:

SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE:

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

(a) whether it is a fact that in the last four years, the Central Government Budgets have provided for not more than 1.6 per cent expenditure on education; and

(b) what is the planned and probable percentage of such expenditure to be made during rest of the Seventh Five Year Plan period and what is the strategy for the coming years under the New Education Policy?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF EDUCATION AND CULTURE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI KRISHNA SAHI): (a) The Government of India budget for the Department of Education provided not more than 1.6 per cent of the expenditure on education in the last four years, but if the expenditure on education of other Departments is also taken into account the percentage would work out between 1.7 per cent and 1.8 per cent.

(b) The Seventh Plan allocation for education for Central Sector is Rs. 1738.64 crores excluding Sports and Art and Culture. Probable expenditure will exceed the allocation. Additional allocations are expected to be provided through the process of Annual Plans and Mid-Term Plan Appraisal. The strategy for the coming years has been given in part XI of the National Policy on Education 1986, a copy of which is attached as statement.

Statement

PART—XI OF THE NATIONAL POLICY ON EDUCATION, 1986

RESOURCES AND REVIEW

11.1 The Education Commission of 1964—66, the National Education Policy of 1968 and practically all others concerned with education have stressed that the egalitarian goals and the practical development-oriented objectives of Indian society can be realised only by making investments in education of an order commensurate with the nature and dimensions of the task.

11.2 Resources, to the extent possible, will be raised by mobilising donations, asking the beneficiary communities to maintain school buildings and supplies of some consumables, raising fees at this higher levels of education and effecting some savings by the efficient use of facilities. Institutions involved with research and the development of technical and scientific manpower should also mobilize some funds by levying a cess or charge on the user agencies, including Government departments, and entrepreneurs. All these measures will be taken not only to reduce the burden on State resources but also for creating a greater sense of responsibility within the education system. However, such measures will contribute only marginally to the total funding. The Government and the community in general will find funds for such programmes as: the universalisation of elementary education; liquidating illiteracy; equality of access to educational opportunities to all sections throughout the country; enhancing the social relevance, quality and functional effectiveness of educational programmes; generating knowledge and developing technologies in scientific fields crucial to self-sustaining economic development; and creating a critical consciousness of the values and imperatives of national survival.

11.3 The deleterious consequences of non-investment or inadequate investment in education are indeed very serious.

Similarly, the cost of neglecting vocational and technical education and of research is also unacceptable. Sub-optimal performance in these fields could cause irreparable damage to the Indian economy. The network of institutions set up from time to time since Independence to facilitate the application of science and technology would need to be substantially and expeditiously updated, since they are fast becoming obsolete.

11.4 In view of these imperatives, education will be treated as a crucial area of investment for national development and survival. The National Policy on Education, 1986, had laid down that the investment on education be gradually increased to reach a level of expenditure of 6 per cent of the national income as early as possible. Since the actual level of investment has remained for short of that target, it is important that greater determination be shown now to find the funds for the programmes laid down in this Policy. While the actual requirements will be computed from time to time on the basis of monitoring and review, the outlay on education will be stepped up to the extent essential for policy implementation in the Seventh Plan. It will be ensured that from the Eighth Five Year Plan onwards it will uniformly exceed to 6 percent of the National Income.

Raising literacy level

*38. SHRI KALPNATH RAI: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to a recent estimate of the World Bank according to which the illiteracy level in India is more than 65 percent;

(b) if so, whether the above estimate represents the correct position of literacy and illiteracy in the country; and

(c) what steps are being taken under the Seventh Five Year Plan to raise the literacy level?