

Replacement of wooden sleepers on railway track

331. SHRI BIJOY KRISHNA HANDIQUE: Will the Minister of TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) the percentage of wooden sleepers replaced on railway tracks by monoblock concrete sleepers;

(b) whether Government propose to replace the wooden sleepers in the North-East Frontier Railways; and

(c) if not, what is the percentage of loss of forest wealth accounted for by this continued use of wooden sleepers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA): (a) Use of monoblock concrete sleepers in tracks is being progressively increased and requirement of wooden sleepers reduced. Percentage of intake of wooden sleepers for Broad Gauge to the total number of sleepers in 1984-85 has decreased by 14 per cent approx, compared to corresponding figures of 1979-80.

(b) Yes, Sir. A concrete sleeper factory is proposed to be set up shortly on this Railway.

(c) Does not arise.

Representation against attitude of the Member of the Central Board of Film censor

332. SHRI R. MOHANARANGAM: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any representation from the film Chamber of Commerce and the representatives of the Film Producers regarding the attitude of the members of the Central Board of Film Censor in the country especially in Tamil Nadu; and

(b) if so, what are the details in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF EDUCATION AND CULTURE (SHRIMATI SUSHILA ROHTAGI): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) They have alleged that the censors delay the issue of certificates and that the censor guidelines are not interpreted uniformly in all cases.

Arrears due from different countries to Indian ports

333. SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY: Will the Minister of TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) what is the total amount of arrears due from different countries to Indian ports for berthing the ships in the dockyard, port-wise; and

(b) whether Government have taken any steps to recover the amount from those countries, if so, what are the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI RAJESH PILOT): (a) and (b) The services to vessels owned by foreign countries are provided on the strength of applications made by local steamer/shipping agents and these agents are liable to pay port charges. Calcutta Port Trust have reported that approximately Rs. 44.30 lakhs are due as arrears in respect of 11 foreign flag vessels. Further suits have also been filed in 4 cases against the local agents for recovery of the dues amounting to Rs. 6.50 lakhs. Bombay Port have reported that an amount of Rs. 68,981.19 is due in respect of the naval vessels of other countries to whom services were rendered on advice of the Indian Navy who pay the charges on receipt of remittances from the foreign Governments. Other ports have not reported any cases of arrears due from foreign vessels.

Fulfilment of family planning targets during the Sixth Five Year Plan

334. SHRI KALPNATH RAI: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the targets set-up for the Sixth Plan in respect of Family planning have been achieved;

(b) if not, what are the reasons therefor?

(c) whether some States have lagged behind in the programme; and

(d) if so, what steps have been taken in those States for activating the family planning programmes?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE DEPARTMENT OF FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI S. KRISHNA KUMAR): (a) and (b) The performance of the Family Planning Programme during the Sixth Plan shows that the overall achievement was around 10 per cent of the target. The Family Planning performance depends on a number of factors including prevalent socio-economic conditions the outreach of delivery system, efforts made in demand generation and the efficiency of the programme management.

(c) and (d) Four major low performing States of Uttar Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, Bihar and Rajasthan have been identified. These States have been kept under special focus for monitoring the programme and followup action on the basis of study conducted by Indian Institute of Management, Ahmedabad. The concerned States are implementing the recommendations made by the Indian Institute of Management. In addition, Government has prepared a well defined strategy to achieve the goals set under Family Welfare Programme. The main features of the strategy are: increasing demand for contraception through improved communication approaches; expanding and improving the quality of outreach services; promoting greater community participation; intensifying population education; enhancing child survival rates; and reorganising programme structure and improving its management. Incentives to personnel engaged in the programme is also a part of the strategy and different States have instituted different systems in this regard.

Uniform system of Education in the schools

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

(a) whether the NCERT has drawn up any plans for introducing a uniform system of education in all the schools in the country;

(b) if so, what are the details in this regard; and

(c) whether these plans have been examined by Government and whether any decisions have been taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF EDUCATION AND CULTURE (SHRIMATI SUSHILA ROHATGI): (a) National Council of Educational Research and Training has developed "National Curriculum for Primary and Secondary Education—A Framework", with a view to bring about a commonality in education of items which are essential from the national point of view.

(b) The 'Core Curriculum' recommended in the framework covering these items has three main components:—

(i) Essential Learning Outcomes:

The Core Curriculum will be centred around essential learning outcomes common for all learners at a particular stage with a view to provide basic uniformity in the expected attainments of learners and standards of education throughout the country.

(ii) Scheme of Study:

The essential learnings under the Core Curriculum will be provided through content and learning experience related to different subject areas. The Core Curriculum thus is characterised by a common scheme of study.

(iii) Core Elements:

The Core Curriculum will emphasise on areas of national importance which are considered essential for strengthening a national identity e.g. projection of India's composite culture and preservation of cultural heritage, inculcating a profound sense of patriotism, promotion of national and social integration, inculcation in the people a respect for the Constitution and creating awareness of the fundamental rights and duties of Citizens etc.

(c) This exercise has been done by the National Council of Educational Research and Training (NCERT) at the behest of the Government of India.