

Finalisation of new Education Policy

744. SHRI P. N. SUKUL: Will the Minister of EDUCATION be pleased to state;

(a) whether the new education policy is likely to be finalized before the commencement of the new academic session in schools and colleges;

(b) what will be its salient features; and

(c) if not, by when it is going to be implemented?

THE MINISTER OF EDUCATION (SHRI K. C. PANT): (a) to (c) Government has already initiated a comprehensive review of the National Policy on Education (1968) so as to make education a more effective instrument of social transformation and national development. A new policy document is under preparation. The new education policy, among other things will place emphasis on the following essential elements:—

—Promotion of national cohesion and work ethic;

—Emphasis on national integration and exposure of students to the grandeur of India's freedom struggle and its significance for national integration;

—Acquaintance of students with India's ancient heritage and culture;

—Re-orientation of curricula and text books to curb parochial and communal interpretations of India's composite culture;

—Promotional measures for ensuring greater participation of girls in the educational programmes and universalisation of elementary education by 1990;

—Large scale and effective use of the new communication technology for education;

—Strengthening of Teachers' training programme, and institutions to improve the motivation and skills of teachers;

—Delinking of degrees from jobs under Government;

—Establishment of an Open University to bring higher education within easy reach of all;

—Removal of obsolescence and qualitative improvement of technical education especially in area of emerging Technologies;

—Re-organisation of vocational education and establishment of community polytechnics to align it with industry, agriculture, communications and other productive sector of the economy;

—Establishment/strengthening of institutions with a view to creating pace-setter centres of excellence; and

—Promotion of mass movement for literacy.

It is expected that the new education policy will come into effect in the academic year 1986-87.

Foreign assistance for power generation

745. SHRI SURAJ PRASAD: Will the Minister of IRRIGATION AND POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that some foreign countries have offered to assist India in power generation;

(b) whether France and Austria have also offered assistance in this regard; and

(c) what are those projects which are to be constructed with foreign assistance ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF POWER (SHRI ARUN NEHRU): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir.

(c) Financial assistance from external sources has been availed of, from time to time, for power projects. The schemes presently under consideration with external assistance include the Singrauli Korba, Ramagundam, Farakka, Vindhyachal Stage-I and Rihand Stage-I Thermal Projects and the Bodhghat, Upper Indravati, Chamara, Idukki Stage II and Lower Mettur Hydroelectric Projects. It is recently been decided, in principle, to set up the Kahalgaon thermal Power Project in Bihar with USSR assistance.

• Medicines for curing diabetes

746. SHRI MUKHTIAR SINGH MALIK: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that about 30 million people in India are suffering from diabetes;

(b) whether any efforts have been made by Government for the provision of medicines to the poor/backward sections of the society in the country; and

(c) if so, the funds allocated if any for the purpose ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH (SHRI YOGENDRA MAKWANA): (a) Diabetes is not a notifiable disease and

the exact number of people suffering from diabetes is not known. However, based on the available data, the number of people treated for diabetes mellitus in various hospitals and dispensaries in the country during the years 1979—1981 is given below:

Year	No. of patients
1979	4,25,527
1980	2,08,482
1981	4,91,447

(b) and (c) There is at present no exclusive programme for provision of medicines to diabetic patients except as part of the General Health Care. However, a new scheme entitled "Diabetes Control Programme" has been included in the Seventh Five Year Plan proposals of the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare. The intervention strategies are based on the basic premise that diabetic care should be part of primary health care programme. Health Care personnel are to ensure imparting to the patients factual knowledge about diabetes specially about common, acute and chronic complications. The Seventh Five Year Plan of this Ministry is awaiting the final clearance from the Planning Commission.

Seminar at Patna

747. SHRI MUKHTIAR SINGH MALIK: Will the Minister of SHIPPING AND TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether a seminar was sponsored at Patna on 14th April, 1985 jointly by the Ministry of Shipping and Transport UGC and ICSSR which was attended by experts from all over the country and representatives of some foreign countries;