

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRIES OF EDUCATION AND CULTURE AND SOCIAL WELFARE (SHRI P. K. THUNGON): The Central Government have been providing assistance to State Governments for revising the pay scales of teachers in universities and colleges. The last revision was implemented with effect from 1-1-1973 i.e. the date from which the pay scales of Central Government employees were revised. The question of any further revision of pay scales of university and college teachers is still to be considered in the context of the recent decision of the Government to appoint the Fourth Pay Commission to consider the revision of pay scales of Central Government employees.

Relief to Apple Growers of Himachal Pradesh

2076. SHRIMATI USHA MALHOTRA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have received any communication from the Government of Himachal Pradesh for grant to give relief to the apple (rowers affected by the apple-scab disease; and

(b) if so, what steps Government have taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (RAO BIRENDRA SINGH): a) Government of Himachal Pradesh has approached for central assistance for control of scab disease of apple.

(b) (i) During the year 1983-84, the Government of India have accorded administrative approval for undertaking control operations on an area of about 70,000 acres in Himachal Pradesh against apple scab involving an equal share of subsidy amounting Rs. 19.60 lakhs. An amount of Rs. 9.80 lakhs has been released to the State as advance [provisional pay-scheme].

(ii) Technical Officers were deputed to the State to assess the situation for items of immediate relief. It was observed that the required quantities of fungicides have been supplied by the private industry and the Himachal Pradesh Agro Industries Corporation had also sufficient stocks to help the orchardists in controlling the scab disease of apple.

(iii) To meet the requirements of plant protection equipment, the State Government was promptly advised to take the delivery of available number of manually operated sprayers from the nearest sub-offices of the Directorate of Plant Protection, Quarantine & Storage, located at Pathankot and New Delhi.

Literacy under Sixth Five Year Plan

2077. SHRIMATI ILA BHATTACHARYA: Will the Minister of EDUCATION AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) what are the details of literacy programmes undertaken in the country during the Sixth Five Year Plan period; and

(b) the estimated target of literacy to be achieved during the Sixth Five Year Plan period?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRIES OF EDUCATION AND CULTURE AND SOCIAL WELFARE (SHRI P. K. THUNGON): (a) Adult Education forms a part of the Minimum Needs Programme in the Sixth Plan and has been included in the New Twenty Point Programme. An allocation of Rs. 128 crores (Rs. 60 crores in the Central Sector and Rs. 68 crores in the State Sector) has been made for the Sixth Plan period. Two major schemes viz. (i) 100 per cent centrally sponsored scheme of Rural Functional Literacy Projects; and (ii) State adult Education Programme have been taken up for the

benefit of adult illiterates in the age-group 15-35, especially in rural areas. The other schemes being implemented in the field of Adult Education during the Sixth Plan are:

- (i) Central Scheme of Assistance to Voluntary Agencies working in the field of Adult Education;
- (ii) Adult Education Programme through Nehru Yuvek Kendras, Universities and Colleges;
- (iii) Centrally Sponsored Scheme of Strengthening of Administrative Structures for Adult Education;
- (iv) Centrally Sponsored Scheme of Post-literacy and Follow-up Programme; and
- (V) Shramik Vidyapeeths.

(b) No target has been fixed for the Sixth Five Year Plan. The coverage of adult illiterates in the age group 15-35 during 1980-81, 1981-82 and 1982-83 has been 25.91 lakhs, 30.99 lakhs and 43.18 lakhs (provisional) respectively. The tentative target for 1983-84 is 52.60 lakhs adults.

Renewal of Passports

2078. SHRI SYED AHMAD HASHMI: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) what is the procedure of renewal of Indian passport at present;
- (b) whether there is any proposal with Government to make it more easy when it is required for urgent visit/jobs abroad; and
- (c) if so, what are the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI A. A. RAHIM): (a) When a passport is due for renewal, the passport holder is required to apply for its renewal in

the prescribed form with the necessary fee to the nearest Passport Authority. Each Passport Authority is competent to renew the passport for a further period, unless the applicant has contravened any of the provisions of the Passports Act.

(b) and (c) All Passport Authorities have standing instructions to render all passport services on a priority basis, if urgency is established and the application is also supported by proper documents.

Renewal services are usually done in a week's time. Same day service is also provided in exceptional cases, if circumstances so warrant it.

Famine Stricken Nations

2079. SHRI CHAND RAM: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the United Nations official has indicated ("Patriot" of 4-7-83) that many of the world's poor nations particularly non-aligned countries are famine-stricken and may go bankrupt without substantial new aid by United Nations and the international world turning a deaf ear to the most pressing needs of the low income countries; and

(b) if so, what role is being played by the Government of India in this regard?

"THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI A. A. RAHIM): (a) The Patriot report dated 4-7-83 - was in the context of UNCTAD-VI which took place in Belgrade between 6th June 1983 and 2nd July, 1983. The report sent by an agency journalist does not specifically refer to any UN official and hence it is not possible to state whether these "views can be ascribed to any particular UN official. However, it is a fact that many developing and non-aligned countries are severely affected by the crisis in the world economy and that they require subs-