

Hindi in Kendriya Vidyalayas

***288. SHRI THANGA TAMIL SELVAN:** Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that knowledge of Hindi has been made compulsory for the posts of teachers in Kendriya Vidyalayas since 1986; and

(b) if so, whether Government would withdraw this provision in view of the fact that well qualified candidates from Tamil Nadu are debarred from applying for the posts of teachers in Kendriya Vidyalayas?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI ARJUN SINGH): (a) Proficiency/Competency in teaching through Hindi is an essential qualification for appointment in Kendriya Vidyalayas (KVs) to the posts of Post Graduate Teachers, Trained Graduate Teachers and Primary Teachers.

(b) Kendriya Vidyalayas are primarily meant for children of transferable Central Government employees. As there is a mix of children with various mother tongues, English and Hindi are used as mediums of instruction in the class-room. Therefore knowledge of English and Hindi has been made compulsory for the teachers in Kendriya Vidyalayas. There are adequate number of teachers from Tamil Nadu having proficiency in Hindi and they are well represented in Kendriya Vidyalaya Sangathan.

Area studies programmes of UGC

***289. SHRI S.M. LALJAN BASHA:** Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the UGC has sanctioned any area-studies programmes to cover the Middle-East, North Africa and Latin America in the last two years;

(b) if so, the names of the area-studies sanctioned;

(c) the names of universities that were given these programmes; and

(d) the steps proposed to be taken to expand such programme?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI ARJUN SINGH): (a) to (c) During the last two years, University

Grants Commission (UGC) has sanctioned a Centre for African Studies in the University of Delhi.

(d) Under its Area Studies Programmes, UGC invites proposals from Universities for new Area Study Centres and Area Study Programmes, for consideration, as per relevant guidelines.

Projects for Assam

***290. SHRI KARNENDU BHATTACHARJEE:** Will the Minister of DEVELOPMENT OF NORTH EASTERN REGION be pleased to state:

- (a) the number of projects being run by the Ministry in Assam;
- (b) the details of the implementing authority and by when the projects are likely to be completed; and
- (c) how many projects are in the pipeline for implementation in Assam alongwith the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF DEVELOPMENT OF NORTH EASTERN REGION (SHRI P.R. KYNDIAH): (a) There are 159 ongoing individual projects under Non-Lapsable Central Pool of Resources (NLCPR) in Assam including those sanctioned under special package for Bodo Territorial Council (BTC) and 59 ongoing projects through North Eastern Council (NEC)

(b) The details of these projects are given in the Annexure (See Appendix 208 Annexure No. 5).

(c) Forty-two projects have been retained under NLCPR for detailed techno-economic examination. Their details are as given in the Appendix. Six NEC projects are in the process of approval. Their details are as given in the Appendix.

Growth in Copper use

***291. SHRI RAJKUMAR DHOOT:** Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether there has been growth of 7 percent in the use of copper in India against world average of 4 percent but the per capita usage has not caught up with that of developed countries;

(b) if so, the details thereof and reasons therefor;