

some material has already been prepared. Orders have already been placed with the Bharat Electronics for the supply of language laboratories at the two Vidyapeeths at Tirupati and Delhi.

The Sansthan has started conducting a Correspondence Course in Sanskrit. About 600 learners are availing themselves of this facility.

All the above mentioned programmes will be continued during the Fifth Five Year Plan. Besides, it is proposed to provide facilities for training of teacher-educators, teachers of Sanskrit, in-service training for the teachers of the Vidyapeeths, short-term courses for the colleges and University teachers, and teachers of other voluntary organisations. About 2500 teachers are likely to be trained in modern techniques for teaching Sanskrit. About 15000 adults are likely to be taught Sanskrit, according to the new method, so as to attain competence to read, write and understand simple Sanskrit. Moreover, Sanskrit self-taught series are proposed to be brought out in a number of Indian and foreign languages.

Proposal to nationalise Health Services

231. SHRI SAWAISINGH SISO DIA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY PLANNING be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have any proposal under their consideration to nationalise health services in near future; and

(b) if so, when a final decision is likely to be taken therefor?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY PLANNING (PROF. A. K. KISKU): (a) No.

(b) Does not arise.

Pier at Rameswaram Port

232. SHRI T. V. ANANDAN: Will the Minister of SHIPPING AND TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a high power Committee in its report of 1970 recommended a Permanent Pier

at Rameswaram Port, Tamil Nadu, to handle passenger and cargo traffic between Sri Lanka and India;

(b) if so, the action taken by Government so far in this regard; and

(c) the passenger and cargo traffic handled by this port in 1972 and up to September 1973?

THE MINISTER OF SHIPPING AND TRANSPORT (SHRI KAMLAPATI TRIPATHI): (a) A Committee headed by Deputy Development Adviser, Ministry of Shipping and Transport, submitted a report in December 1970. One of the points examined by them was the selection of a suitable site out of five sites for establishing a permanent Pier near Rameswaram for ferry service between India and Sri Lanka. The Committee recommended that the best site was at Rameswaram Bay. The Committee also recommended that a Master Plan for land development, terminal building, customs sheds and other shore base facilities in relation to the Pier, the railway siding and the road access should be prepared and that data for this should be furnished by the Government of Tamil Nadu.

(b) The matter is under consideration in consultation with the various Ministries and the State Government.

(c) Information on this has been called for from the State Government and will be furnished as soon as it is received.

Rural Loan System for farmers

233. MISS SAROJ PURUSHOT-TAM KHAPARDE: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the National Commission on Agriculture has recommended overhauling of rural loan system for small farmers, landless labourers and agro-industries; and

(b) if so, whether any steps have been taken by Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI ANNASAHEB SHINDE): (a) and (b) A statement is laid on the Table of the Sabha.