

STUDENTS IN PRIMARY SCHOOLS

976. SHRI TRILOKI SINGH: Will the Minister of EDUCATION AND YOUTH SERVICES be pleased to state:

(a) the reason, for which more than seventy-five per cent students leave the schools before they reach Class V even in areas where compulsory education is in force; and

(b) what steps Government propose to take to ensure that children once entering a primary school do not leave it before passing class V?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EDUCATION AND YOUTH SERVICES (SHRI BHAKT DARSAN): (a) The main reasons are: (i) Economic backwardness resulting in the involvement of the pupils in domestic work for assisting parents; and (ii) social prejudice against schooling of girls particularly in rural areas;

(b) The following measures are being adopted by State Governments:

1. Midday meals scheme;
2. Supply of free uniform to needy students particularly to girls;
3. Supply of free books to needy children;
4. Provision of school mothers;
5. Provision of creches in villages so that infants can be looked after releasing grown up boys and girls to attend school;
6. Arranging school instructional hours to suit local needs;
7. Educating parents through parent teacher associations;
8. Making the curricula interesting to attract children to school;
9. Providing vocational bias to the instruction so that the skills can of immediate use;
10. Closer inspection of schools.

ABOLITION OF PENSIONS OF DESCENDANTS OF FORMER RULERS

977. SHRI TRILOKI SINGH: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the pensions payable to the descendants of the Moghal Emperors, King of Oudh, Tipu Sultan and others granted by the British Government and its predecessor in India prior to Independence are being paid now;

(b) whether Government propose to abolish those pensions;

(c) if the answer to part (b) above be in the negative, the reasons for discrimination between persons referred to in part (a) above and the former ruling princes referred to in Article 291 of the Constitution?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI VIDYA CHARAN SHUKLA):

(a) Some of the political pensions granted by the British Government prior to Independence continue to be paid now.

(b) and (c) The question of these pensions has not been fully considered so far.

DISCONTENT AMONG TRIBAL POPULATION

978. DR. DEBIPRASAD CHATTERJEE: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the observation of the Commissioner for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes made in the 18th Report to the effect that good intentions are becoming infructuous because of poor implementation, that frustration and discontent are mounting and spreading among the alienated tribal population and that law alone is of no assistance to them (1.36, 1.37, 1.38); and

(b) if so, what steps Government propose to take to remove the grievance of the tribal populations of West Bengal and Andhra Pradesh?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI VIDYA CHARAN SHUKLA):

(a) and (b) The Commissioner for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes in his Annual Report for the year 1968-69 has referred to the specific problem of restoration of land to the members of a tribal community called Tana Bhagats from their tribal co-villagers who are Christians in the State of Bihar. The suggestions made by the Commissioner in this regard have been forwarded to the Government of Bihar for their consideration.