

to be decided upon the terms and conditions on which foreign credit facilities are available from various countries. It is also not possible to lay down standard designs of ships of 11 shipowners to follow because the technical developments are taking place very fast and the requirements of different trades vary. Our requirements, where necessary will require to be adapted also to the type of ships that may be available or accepted on order with foreign ship-yards.

#### INCREASE IN ILLITERACY

785. SHRI CHITTA BASU :  
SHRI PRANAB KUMAR  
MUKHERJEE: SHRI I. P.  
YADAV: SHRI SRI KANT MISHRA  
; DR. BHAI MAHAVIR : SHRI  
LALK. ADVANI: SHRI JAGDISH  
PRASAD  
M V T HUR: SHRI N. K.  
SHEJWALKAR: SHRI SUNDAR  
SINGH BHAN-  
D IRI : SHRI PREM  
MANOHAR: SHRI NIRANIAN  
VARMA :

Will the MINISTER OF EDUCATION AND YOUTH SERVICES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the number of illiterate in the country have increased from 298 million to 349 million in 1969;

(b) if so, what are the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the subject was discussed at the 35th session of the Educational Advisory Board held during May, 1970.

(d) if so, the details of the recommendations made by the Board and the decisions taken by Government thereon; and

(e) the details of various other steps Government intend to propose to take to liquidate illiteracy in the country in the shortest possible time?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF EDUCATION AND YOUTH SERVICES (PROF. A. K. KISHU) : (a) to (e). A statement is enclosed.

#### STATEMENT

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The growth of literacy in India is slow, less than 1 per cent per year. The population is increasing more rapidly, at more than 2 per cent per year. As a consequence, although the percentage of literacy is increasing from year to year, the number of illiterates is also increasing.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

(e) The responsibility for the eradication of illiteracy rests upon the State Governments. The Government of India can at best stimulate action in this field through research, pilot projects and clearing house functions. The major Central or Centrally Sponsored programmes included in the 4th Five Year Plan are (i) Farmers' Education and Functional Literacy Projects; (ii) Scheme of Assistance to Voluntary Organisations working in the field of Adult Education; (iii) The National Board of Adult Education; and (iv) Pilot Projects for spread of Literacy.

#### A.R.C. REPORT ON CENTRE-STATE RELATIONS

786. SHRI R. P. KHAITAN : SHRI  
CHITTA BASU: SHRI PRANAB  
KUMAR  
MUKHERJEE: DR. SALIG  
RAM : SHRI KRISHAN KANT:  
SHRI ARJUN ARORA :

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to refer to reply to Starred Question No 75 given in the Rajya Sabha on April, 2, 1970 and state :

(a) whether Government have since examined the ARC report on the Centre State Relations; and

(b) if so, the details of the recommendations accepted?