

(b) what steps are being taken for the full utilisation of the provision for this purpose?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER * THE MINISTRY OF EDUCATION (SHRI BHAKT DARSHAN): (a) Rs. 1,97,000.

(b) As grants-in-aid given to State Governments and voluntary organisations for setting up Youth Hostels have not produced encouraging results, the Government of India are considering a proposal to put up Youth Hostels in selected places as direct projects, on which the entire provision should be utilised.

HIGH PERCENTAGE OF FAILURES IN UNIVERSITY EXAMINATION;?

SO. SHRI M. C. SHAH: Will the Minister of EDUCATION be pleased to state:

(a) what are the main reasons for the high percentage of failures in University Degree Course examinations; and

(b) what steps Government propose to take to remedy this situation?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF EDUCATION (SHRI BHAKT DARSHAN): (a) High percentage of failures in University Degree Course Examinations is not universal; it is confined to certain stages only. Some of the main reasons for such failures are:

- (i) Non-selective process of admissions in the universities and colleges;
- (ii) Inadequacy of properly qualified teaching staff, both in terms of quantity and quality;
- (iii) Non-availability of proper facilities in the libraries and laboratories;
- (iv) Present system of examinations.

(b) The Government has taken several steps to remedy the situation:

- (i) The most comprehensive single step was the introduction of the three-year Degree Course Scheme, under which recurring and non-recurring grants were given to universities to enable them to revise syllabuses, introduce general education courses, reduce overcrowding in classes, improve teacher-pupil ratio, strengthen laboratories, replenish libraries and, wherever possible, institute tutorial system;
- (ii) The introduction of a scheme to upgrade the salary scales of college teachers to improve the quality of teachers;
- (iii) The setting up by the University Grants Commission of a committee to study the question of improving the system of examination. The report of this committee has been published and circulated to all the universities for their comments;
- (iv) Assistance to universities and colleges for the improvement of laboratory and library facilities.

SETTING UP REFINERIES ON EAST COAST

31. SHRI M. S. GURUPADASWAMY: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government are considering a proposal to set up two more refineries on the East Coast;
- (b) if so, the places where these refineries are proposed to be set up; and
- (c) what is the present position in the matter?