

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

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN 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 EXAMINATIONS

30. 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. GURUPADA-SWAMY: 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?