

- Facilities required in higher medicine in Sikkim.

TRIPURA

- Release of Gap grant to the State by Department of Expenditure.
- Financial Assistance to resettle 700 families affected by Border Fencing in Tripura.
- Rehabilitation package for surrendered militants.
- Extension of railway line from Kumarghat-Agartala.
- Setting up of a medical college.
- Early sanction of Monarchak Gas Turbine for production of power.
- Mitigation of the plight of Refugees from Mizoram in Tripura.

2. The above demands have been communicated to the concerned Ministries/Departments.

Burden on children

†*197. DR. PRABHA THAKUR: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that alongwith pressure of studies burden of school bag has also been increasing on children;

(b) if so, whether Government propose to take some steps to reduce this burden; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI ARJUN SINGH): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) The Yash Pal Committee (1993), in its chapter on the subject recommended, *interalia*, the following measures for reduction of the burden of school bag;

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

- (i) To treat the textbooks as school property, thus obviating the need for the students to purchase them and carry them daily to their homes.
- (ii) To prepare a separate time-table for the assignment of homework and for the use of textbooks and notebooks.
- (iii) In primary classes, no homework be given to children, except for extension of exploration in the home environment. In the upper primary and secondary classes homework, where necessary, should be non-textual and textbooks when needed for work at home, should be made available on a rotation basis.
- (iv) A review of public examinations at classes X and XII with a view to ensure replacement of the prevailing text-based and "quiz type" questioning by a concept-based one.

At most schools fall under the jurisdiction of the States/UTs, the respective Governments and Secondary Boards have been implementing these recommendations in their schools. National bodies like national Council of education Research and Training (NCERT) and Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE) have taken measures to formulate policies and directions in this respect.

The National Curriculum framework for School education—2000 brought out by NCERT recommends reduction in the total load—physical and mental, of school children. The integration of Art, Work and Health Education into the Art of healthy and Productive Living at the primary level was recommended, as also the integration of History, Geography, Civics and Economics into one subject, Social Sciences, from Class VI to X, has made the school bags lighter.

The CBSE have advised the schools

- (i) To enable children to leave the school bags in the school itself for Classes I-II and set no homework upto Class II.

- (ii) To focus on continuous and comprehensive evaluation based on the achievement record given by the Board.
- (iii) To emphasize several 'soft' skills like Music, Dance, Fine Arts, etc.
- (iv) To provide alternatives to home work in primary classes.

Government Accommodation in KV's

*198. SHRI BALAWANT ALIAS BAL APTE: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether official housing accommodation is not available in all the Kendriya Vidyalayas;

(b) whether the teachers/employees of the Kendriya Vidyalayas have to face problems in regard to housing accommodation in the schools;

(c) if so, the school-wise, category-wise and division-wise, details of schools where Government accommodation is available;

(d) whether Government have any plan to provide accommodation to all the teachers/employees in Delhi region in the near future; and

(e) the details of the schools where Government accommodation would be constructed in the near future and by when?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI ARJUN SINGH): (a) to (c) Residential accommodation is provided in Kendriya Vidyalayas in several ways. In respect of kendriya Vidyalayas in the Project Sector, the Project authorities (PSUs) are required to provide residential accommodation. In respect of kendriya Vidyalayas in the Civil & Defence Sector, 50% of the requirement of residential accommodation is to be provided by the sponsoring authorities at the time of opening of the Kendriya Vidyalayas till such time as the KVS constructs its own accommodation. However, there are some Vidyalayas where the requisite 50% accommodation has neither been provided by the sponsoring authorities nor by the kendriya Vidyalaya Sangathan (KVS).

In most places 11 units of staff quarters (Type I-2, Type II-4, Type III-4 and Type IV-1) are constructed by KVS in the first phase out of total number of 21 quarters, as per policy. Providing 50% of accommodation is