

MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND MINISTER OF STATE IN DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (PROF. M.G.K. MENON): (a). Yes, Sir. Government have decided to review the Navodaya Vidyalaya Scheme, and not to open more schools pending this action.

(b) to (e). Government have decided to review the National Policy on Education (NPE) 1986. The modalities for this are being worked out. Enforcement of an alternative education policy, pending this review, does not arise.

Sale of Old Vehicles by Defence Vehicle Depots

2055. SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Defence Vehicle Depots sell old vehicles after the expiry of their life span;

(b) if so, the number and types of vehicles sold by each depot during last three years;

(c) whether complaints have been received that the vehicles are sold out after removal of some parts therefrom in the depots;

(d) whether Government have conducted any enquiry in this regard; and

(e) if so, the details thereof and if not the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (DR. RAJA RAMANNA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) This information is being collected.

(c) to (e). In order to ensure the maximum utilisation of components/ancillaries, and to achieve economies in this regard, cannibalisation/ removal/replacement of components is undertaken as part of a conscious policy. Complaints are infrequent. When received, they are gone into on merits. No such complaint could be substantiated in the recent past.

[English]

Group Insurance Scheme and Other Benefits to Teachers Working in Delhi Administration

2056. SHRI KALKADAS: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether benefits enjoyed by the Assistants in Government Offices are higher than those enjoyed by the TGTs & PGTs working in the schools run by the Delhi Administration despite the fact that the scale of pay and grade of teachers are higher than those of the Assistants;

(b) whether in the matter of group insurance scheme and other admissible benefits to the Assistants, the teachers are treated at par in the matter of payments before and after the death;

(e) if not, whether Government propose to remove this anomaly; and

(d) if so, the time by which it will be done?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND MINISTER OF STATE IN DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (PROF. M.G.K. MENON): (a) and (b). The Assistants working in the Delhi Administration are in the pay-scales Rs. 1400-2300, while the pay scale of Trained

Graduate Teachers/Post Graduate Teachers is Rs. 1400/1640-2900 respectively. In regard to benefits other than medical assistance and age of retirement — that is, in respect of Group Insurance, Leave-Travel Concession, House Rent Allowance, City Compensatory Allowance, Dearness Allowance, bonus and Superannuation benefits — Assistants and TGTs and PGTs are treated alike. While the teachers get a fixed medical allowance of Rs. 15/- p.m., apart from reimbursement of expenses on medical treatment for chronic diseases, the Assistants are given the facility only of this re-imburement. The age of retirement of teachers is 60 while that for Assistants is 58.

(c) and (d). There is no proposal to extend to the Assistants the benefits of retirement at 60 years of age or fixed medical allowance at Rs. 15/- p.m. in addition to the re-imburements for treatment of chronic diseases as are presently applicable to teachers.

[*Translation*]

Celebration of Literacy year

2057. SHRI KASHIRAM RANA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the steps taken to make "Literacy Year" successful;

(b) the amount allocated to achieve the targets fixed in this regard; and

(c) whether the experience of adult education scheme has been kept in view of making efforts to make it a success?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND MINISTER OF STATE IN DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (PROF. M.G.K. MENON): (a)

to (c). United Nations has declared 1990 as the International Literacy Year (ILY). The Prime Minister launched ILY in India on 22nd January, 1990.

A plan for observance of ILY has been prepared keeping in view the past experience in implementation of literacy programmes. All State Governments and Union Territory Administrations have been advised to draw up a calendar of activities to be organised as part of observance of ILY. These activities are expected to generate public awareness about the implications of illiteracy as well as means for combating it, and to mobilise involvement of all sections of the society. Some of the activities organised or proposed to be organised in respect of ILY include:-

- (i) Presentation of tableau on ILY in the Republic Day Parade.
- (ii) Printing of calendar on the theme of ILY.
- (iii) Environment building on a massive scale through mass media folk and traditional media, and other means.
- (iv) Launching of mass campaigns for complete eradication of illiteracy in the State of Goa and pondicherry, and several selected districts, blocks, villages, etc. in other States/ UTs.
- (v) A larger involvement of students, educational institutions, non-student youth, voluntary organisations, ex-servicemen, etc. in literacy activities.
- (vi) Release of postal stamp.
- (vii) Organising the Bharat Gyan Vigyan Jatha to cover 70000 villages.