

to link education with work and practical as well as field experience has been formulated by the Commission. The essential features of the scheme include combining the academic component of courses with some applied components suited to the real problems and work situations. This would require the introduction of relevant applied disciplines related to basic subjects or subject groups and re-orienting conventional courses in such a manner that students can apply theoretical knowledge to the problems of the region through field work, project work, extension etc. The Commission would provide assistance for purchase of equipment, books and journals, setting up of workshops and laboratories, pilot plants, etc. and for appointment of additional staff. In the first phase, the Commission proposes to identify 100 Colleges in consultation with Universities and experts where the scheme of restructuring of course could be tried out.

#### **Plan for Tapioca Cultivation in Tribal Areas**

\*715. SHRI N. SREEKANTAN NAIR: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND IRRIGATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether a scheme for Rs. 18 lakhs for the promotion of Tapioca cultivation in the Southern and Northeastern regions have been approved by the Ministry, as reported in the *Times of India* dated 16-7-77;

(b) whether the Tribal belts of Kerala are included in the schemes; and

(c) if not, reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND IRRIGATION (SHRI SURJIT SINGH BARNALA): (a) to (c). No, Sir. The proposal is still in the formulation stage.

#### **Aid to Public Schools by Foreign Agencies**

\*716. SHRI MANORANJAN BHAKTA: Will the Minister of EDUCATION, SOCIAL WELFARE AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether certain public schools are getting aid from certain foreign agencies; and

(b) if so, facts thereof?

THE MINISTER OF EDUCATION, SOCIAL WELFARE AND CULTURE (DR. PRATAP CHANDRA CHUNDER): (a) and (b) The information is being collected.

#### **Admission of Trainees in National Centre for the Blind, Dehra Dun**

\*717. SHRI BHANU KUMAR SHASTRI:  
SHRI KRISHNA CHANDRA HALDER:

Will the Minister of EDUCATION, SOCIAL WELFARE AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether no trainee has been admitted into the National Centre for the Blind and its Training Centre for the Adult Blind, Dehra Dun for the last two years; if so, the reasons for stopping admission;

(b) the amount of expenditure incurred on the Centre during these two years, while there were no trainees; and

(c) how many blind persons are still awaiting admission on the Centre's waiting list?

THE MINISTER OF EDUCATION, SOCIAL WELFARE AND CULTURE (DR. PRATAP CHANDRA CHUNDER): (a) A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

(b) The National Centre for the Blind consists of Schools for Blind and Partially Sighted Children, a Workshop for Making Braille Appliances, Training Centre for the Adult Blind, Sheltered Workshop, Central