

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

Braille Press and National Library for the Blind. Separate figures of expenditure for each unit are not maintained because of many common staff members, services etc. However, expenditure on the whole Centre in the last two years was as follows:—

1975-76 : Rs. 24.17 lakhs.

1976-77 : Rs. 22.74 lakhs.

(c) A somewhat unusual practice of maintaining a sort of a waiting list of all those who applied for admission on their own had been adopted. In March, 1977, when the Centre was ready to recommence admissions, 214 persons who had earlier applied and were on the list, were asked to send in their revised applications. 89 of them have responded. Their cases, along with other fresh applications received by the Centre, will be considered and admissions made according to available vacancies.

#### Statement

The Training Centre for the adult Blind is the only unit of the National Centre for the Blind which admits trainees for training in engineering and non-engineering crafts. The task of this Centre is purely to offer training and not secure employment. The trainees are provided free board, lodging, clothes, tuition and medical facilities.

2. By January 1975, a number of trainees had refused to leave the centre after the completion of their training, unless provided suitable employment of their choice. Even when jobs were offered to some of them, they declined to accept these jobs as they did not come up to their expectations.

3. The overstaying persons and those under training resorted to a number of strikes, disturbances and demonstrations, disrupting the normal functioning of the Centre. After January 1975, therefore, it was not possible to admit fresh trainees till all the overstaying persons had left.

The last overstaying person left after the middle of September, 1976.

4. The Government have since revised the prospectus and fresh admissions are expected to be made shortly in occupations that offer better employment prospects. This is being done in the light of the recommendations of a technical group which has also recommended that this Centre should be reorganised into a National Institute for the Visually Handicapped, carrying out research, training personnel and providing certain crucial services like the production and distribution of books and aids and appliances. The Institute is expected to be set up in the Fifth Plan period.

#### Financial Assistance to States for Housing the Rural Poor

\*718. SHRI P. K. KODIYAN: Will

the Minister of WORKS AND HOUSING AND SUPPLY AND REHABILITATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether any State Government has sought financial assistance from the Centre for constructing houses for the poor in the rural areas on a massive scale as the one lakh house scheme of Kerala;

(b) if so, the extent of assistance sought and the main details of the scheme submitted by the States; and

(c) the action taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF WORKS AND HOUSING AND SUPPLY AND REHABILITATION (SHRI SIKANDAR BAKHT): (a) At the time of the Annual Plan discussion for 1976-77 in November-December, 1975, the Government of Orissa submitted to the Planning Commission an Integrated Housing Scheme for implementation with financial assistance from the Centre.

(b) The total cost of the scheme was estimated at Rs. 75.00 crores, out of which Rs. 42.75 crores was required during the Fifth Plan period. Out of Rs. 42.75 crores required during the