

Yugoslav and Czechoslovak Ministers of Education and Culture and to hold discussions with them for the Promotion of educational, cultural and scientific relations between India and those countries.

(c) The visit strengthened the friendly relations between India and Yugoslavia and Czechoslovakia, and was availed of for finalising plans for educational, cultural and scientific exchanges under the Cultural Agreements between India and those countries.

Cases pending in High Courts

- *197 { Shri D. C. Sharma;
Shri A. N. Vidyalkar;
Shrimati Tarkeshwari
Sinha;
Shri H. C. Linga Reddy:

Will the Minister of Home Affairs be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that 2.63 lakh cases are pending in the High Courts out of which 88,000 are more than 2 years old;

(b) whether it is a fact that High Courts have been adding roughly 20,000 cases per year to their arrears although the number of Judges has been increasing every year; and

(c) if so, the reasons therefor and the steps proposed to be taken in the matter?

The Minister of State in the Ministry of Home Affairs (Shri Hathi): (a) Yes; this was approximately the position on 31-12-1964.

(b) If by arrears is meant pending case, there was an increase exceeding 20,000, only during the year 1964.

(c) The main reason for increase in the pendency of cases in the various High Courts is that institutions steadily increased and though the disposals also steadily increased they did not keep pace with the institutions. The strength of the various High Courts is being constantly reviewed and additional Judges are being appointed where necessary.

Age for Admission to Universities

*198. **Shri Sham Lal Saraf:** Will the Minister of Education be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the reduction in age limit for entry to University education to 13½ years by the Kerala University;

(b) whether Government are also aware of the adverse reaction to such a move elsewhere in the country; and

(c) whether Government are contemplating the desirability of prescribing a national minimum standard for the entry of students into the University education?

The Minister of Education (Shri M. C. Chagla): (a) The Kerala University has introduced during the session 1964-65, a two-year Pre-degree course as a first step towards reorganisation of the pre-University and three-year degree courses. Having regard to the recommendations of the University Grants Commission that the minimum age for admission to the first year of the three-year degree course should be fixed at 16 plus on 1st October of the year of admission, the University has decided that the minimum age for admission to the two year Pre-degree course be fixed at 14 plus. For the years 1964-65 and 1965-66, however, the University has relaxed the minimum age rule and fixed it at 13½ years as on 15th, July of the year of admission. Thus, the age at entry to University education (first year of the three year degree course) will be a minimum of 15 years 6 months during 1966-67 and 1967-68, and 16 plus later.

(b) Government are not aware of any adverse reaction elsewhere in the country.

(c) The University Grants Commission expressed the view in 1960 that while 17 plus might be the desirable minimum age to be prescribed, it would be difficult to enforce this age limit immediately. It, therefore, suggested to the universities that for the