

not a single line about the Eklakhi—Balughat project which was taken up in the year 1984 by the then Minister of Railways Shri Ghani Khan Choudhary. Balughat is the district headquarters of South Dinajpur district and is situated at the border of Bangladesh. It is an important town, but it is neglected. So I would like to know from the hon. Minister through you as to how long it will take to finish the proposed construction of that new railway line.

MR. SPEAKER: We do not have time; there are other questions. I think the hon. Minister's reply is that depending on the resources he is going to do it as quickly as possible.

SHRI LOKANATH CHOUDHURY: Sir, nobody gets so much protection from you as the Railway Minister.

SHRI HARADHAN ROY: I would like to know from the hon. Minister what would be the fate of gauge conversion of Ahmedpur—Katwa, Katwa—Bardhaman and Bankura—Damodar railway line and whether he is going to take up doubling of line between Andal—Sainthia, Bandel—Katwa, Habra—Bongaon and Sheoraphuffy—Tarakeswar.

SHRI C. K. JAFFER SHARIEF: Sir, I do not mind taking up all the work and doing it fast. But, let them put one question to the hon. Finance Minister as to how much money he will be able to spare (*Interruptions*). The question is of resources. Whatever work we have already committed, we have taken up. (*Interruptions*).

SHRI NIRMAL KANTI CHATTERJEE: The entire Eastern Zone is neglected.

SHRI C. K. JAFFER SHARIEF: Eastern Zone is our bread and butter; we cannot afford to ignore that. So, that question does not arise. As everybody knows, the problem is about the constraint of resources. Whatever projects are in hand, we will complete them; and then we will go to the next project thereof.

[*Translation*]

#### Job-Oriented Education

\*284. SHRI RAM PRASAD SINGH: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have formulated any proposals to involve private sector in the scheme of job-oriented education:

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

[*English*]

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION AND DEPARTMENT OF CULTURE) (KUMARI SELJA): (a) to (c): The Centrally Sponsored Scheme of Vocationalisation of Secondary Education involves the private sector in implementation of vocational courses in privately aided/private managed schools; development of curricula: selection of need-based vocational courses; provision of on-the-job training facilities and through assistance to non-government organisations for non-formal programmes.

The UGC are developing under-graduate level vocational courses in consultation with employers. There are also 1439 private ITIs conducting vocational training programmes.

[*Translation*]

SHRI RAM PRASAD SINGH: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the Minister has replied that some aided schools and some recognised schools have been chosen under centre sponsored schemes for imparting vocational education. I had made one simple submission that the number of unemployed youth is increasing leaps and bounds in the country and we are unable to provide them jobs. If we provide them vocational education then we will be able to solve the unemployment problem to some extent. I want to ask the hon. Minister whether the Government propose to provide vocational education in the private schools being run at the Sub Division and Block levels?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI ARJUN SINGH): Mr. Speaker, Sir, there is a scheme to promote educational programmes in private as well as Government schools, which is being implemented in many schools at present. When we get application from the schools on this subject, we provide them assistance considering the already available resources in those schools.

SHRI RAM PRASAD SINGH: Mr. Speaker, Sir, Government of India does not run any college at District and Division level. You have told that you also provide grant through U.G.C., but the colleges situated in the rural areas belong to State Governments only. Whether the Central Government has any plan to open such vocational colleges in the rural areas?

**SHRI ARJUN SINGH :** Mr. Speaker, Sir, this question was basically concerned with involving private sector in these schemes. I mean to say that any programmes can be taken up with the help of the private sector in private as well as Government schools. But it does not have any provision to open Government colleges and schools in every district.

**SHRI DATTA MEGHE :** Mr. Speaker, Sir, these private schools and colleges charge exorbitant fees to the tune of Rs. 1500 to Rs. 2000 and as such the poor students cannot go there. Whether the Government has any plan to give grant to the private schools situated in tribal areas as the poor locals cannot pay the exorbitant fees.

**SHRI ARJUN SINGH :** Grants and assistance is provided to such schools at present also. But so far as the hon. Member's question is concerned, the point of providing special grant to the poor students for continuing their studies can be considered.

**SHRI NITISH KUMAR :** Mr. Speaker, Sir, there is a large number of such students who continue their studies after passing matriculation examination, just not to remain unemployment. Considering this situation, the Government's scheme of providing vocational training is very useful. Now, I want to know that what are the results of this scheme and whether the Government has made any evaluation that upto what extent the students taking this vocational training can make use of it in their practical life? If not, whether the Government has any plan to do so? The question is related to private sector but the gaurdians, who send their wards to the public schools in fact do not face such problem and it is more useful for the lower sections of the society. Whether the Government has any plan to broaden its scope?

**SHRI ARJUN SINGH :** I do agree with the Hon. Member. This scheme's aims and objects are what you have mentioned. I cannot claim that I am fully satisfied with the implementation of this scheme so far, but it has certain aspect for ensuring employment to the trainees by directly contacting such institutions in the public as well as private sector to teach their courses in such colleges so that employment to the trainees can be guaranteed.

So far as your question is concerned, I feel that an evaluation has already been made but a constant evaluation is needed in this respect. I have every hope that the way we are getting all-

round support, we will be able to increase the scope and usefulness of vocational education during Eighth Five Year Plan.

**SHRI UMRAO SINGH :** Sir, there are such institutions which are being run by missionaries, a religious organisation. They propagate their religion. Whether the Government has any proposal to withdraw recognition to such institutions or not recognise such institutes which besides education also impart religious education.

[English]

**MR. SPEAKER :** It is certainly off the mark. (Interruptions).

**SHRI ARJUN SINGH :** Sir, it is off the mark. (Interruptions). Incidentally, religion is not a vocational course also.

[Translation]

**SHRI SATYA DEO SINGH :** Sir, in the present times when the number of unemployed youth is increasing day by day, the vocational training is of great importance. Keeping in view the arbitrary conduct of the private institutions in the name of capitation fee in the field of higher education and only certain persons or a particular group is able to get admission into these institutions, would you ask the private institutions at the time of handing over this job to establish vocational training colleges in those areas where poor students cannot continue their studies and are unable to find an employment. Would the Government take initiatives to provide special grants in these areas?

**SHRI ARJUN SINGH :** Mr. Speaker, Sir, hon. Member is in wrong impression that the Government is going to hand over this job to the private sector. Actually this is not the question. It does not matter whether it is public sector or private sector, but the matter is that what type of training is required in those industries and it also needs to bring consistency in it so that the trainees may get the job. In order to run such schools if any assistance is available we will try to get it but it is not like that we are handing it over to them.

[English]

**SHRI LOKANATH CHOUDHURY :** Sir, our education system has already created certain features in the national scene which is not helping us but rather playing a detrimental role. You know that the answer given here is about vocational training after secondary education.

There had been proposals in the past that vocational education should be part of the curriculum of secondary education itself and many recommendations have been made so that the States are prepared to go in for vocational education for students after matriculation. The scheme is prepared for it. As many secondary schools in this country are privately managed, is the Government thinking of giving aid to introduce vocational training in those secondary schools to prepare the boys for vocational education?

**SHRI ARJUN SINGH :** Sir, that is precisely the programme. This question was in addition to that, that is, to what extent the private sector is also involved. That is the programme and for that, we have a provision of Rs. 410 crore in the Eighth Plan.

*[Translation]*

**PROF. RASA SINGH RAWAT :** Sir, through you I want to know from the Government that the vocational training, started with 10+2 system, has created a problem for the students passing their 12th class because on one hand there are students passing out from polytechnics and I.T.Is. (*Interruptions*) firstly I want to explain in this regard. (*Interruptions*)

**MR. SPEAKER :** Do not try to explain it.

**PROF. RASA SINGH RAWAT :** What efforts are being made by the Government so that the vocational qualification of the 12th pass students get an equal recognition and vocational education can be made more effective. Will the Government give special attention towards the fact that due to lack of vocational education at the college level their knowledge in a particular trade remains incomplete?

**SHRI ARJUN SINGH :** Mr. Speaker, Sir, the students who get vocational training during 10+2, face this question whether they would be able to get an employment on the basis of that training. If we can ensure it then their aim can be fulfilled. Then they can well decide about the usefulness of their further study.

**SHRI RAMESH CHENNITHALA :** Today, we are facing the biggest problem of unemployment. In view of this situation, the Government has made an effort to start vocational training programme in the private sector. But such complaints are also being received that the Government is also recognising some private polytechnics, which do not provide any facilities to the students. Such institutions and

I.T.Is should not be given recognitions. Will you make a review in the case of such institutions whom a recognition has already been granted?

**SHRI ARJUN SINGH :** Mr. Speaker, Sir, a suitable action should be taken in respect of such institutions, running with insufficient facilities and we are certainly going to do so. The Government is also providing them a lot of assistance. Considering the assistance being given to them this situation should not arise. The point mentioned by the hon. Member will be given due consideration and a suitable action will be taken thereon.

*[English]*

#### Environmental Projects

\*285. †SHRI SANAT  
KUMAR MANDAL } : Will the  
SHRI CHITTA BASU }

Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state :

(a) the details of environmental projects being launched in West Bengal with external assistance;

(b) the amount of aid received in each case;

(c) the progress made so far, project-wise; and

(d) the details of the projects proposed to be launched with external assistance during 1993-94?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI KAMAL NATH) : (a) to (d) : A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

#### STATEMENT

(i) A World Bank aided forestry project has been launched during 1992-93 at a total cost of approximately Rs. 114 crores (\$39.0 million). The five year project aims at supporting the Government of West Bengal's Forestry Development Programme, besides establishing in all regions of the State, a sustainable protection system to enhance productivity and conserve biodiversity. An area of about 28544 ha. has been covered under plantation through this project at an expenditure of Rs. 6.84 crores, upto December, 1992.

(ii) World Bank assistance of Rs. 12.27 crores has also been received under the Ganga