

said that these programmes are going on for the adult people. I would like to urge the Government that the programmes should be prepared keeping in view the welfare of Harijans and tribal people residing in other undeveloped areas and promote small scale industries such as knitting of baskets or cultivation.

SHRI BHUVNESH CHATURVEDI : These programmes are not conducted therein. But it is certain that apart from the UGC many non-official agencies which expertise are involved in these activities. They are involved in these programmes and their co-operation is taken.

Special Courts

*284. DR. RAMESH CHAND
TOMAR
SHRI RAMPAL SINGH

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to set up special courts for early disposal of corruption cases in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the time by which such courts are likely to be set up?

[English]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI MARGARET ALVA): (a) and (b) Govt. have already taken a decision to set up Special Courts for trial of CBI cases. At present, Special Courts are functioning in

Andhra Pradesh, Bihar, Kerala, Karnataka, Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan, Punjab, Uttar Pradesh and Delhi.

(c) Does not arise.

[Translation]

DR. RAMESH CHAND TOMAR : Mr. Speaker, Sir, in her reply to my question, the hon. Minister said about setting up of such special Courts in some States. I would like to know from her as to when these Special Courts were introduced and the State wise total number of cases finalised till today and the nature thereof.

[English]

SHRIMATI MARGARET ALVA : The decision to set up these Special Courts to deal with CBI cases was taken in 1986. The first step in the direction was taken and a legislation was passed in 1988. We have got, as I said, till today, 10 Special Courts at the level of judges and four at the level of Magistrates, which have been set up in Ten States up-till-now. We had planned to set up 20 of them at the level of judges and 16 at the level of the Magistrates. But the States have to cooperate in setting them up because we need assistance of the States. We are in consultation with these States to be able to set them up in other States as well.

We have corruption cases handled by the CBI as well as other cases which the CBI is dealing with which are under these courts. As on today, we have 4247 cases pending in these courts.

[Translation]

DR. RAMESH CHAND TOMAR : Mr. Speaker, Sir, it appears from the reply given to my question that special courts have been

set up only for those cases which were referred to CBI. What about other cases which relate to corruption. Will special Courts be set up for those cases? The hon. Minister may kindly explain it.

SHRIMATI MARGARET ALVA : Sir, these courts cover all the cases. Other cases including cases relating to corruption handled by the CBI are referred to these Courts.

SHRI RAMPAL SINGH : Mr. Speaker. Sir, the hon. Minister said that other cases are also taken up. I would like to know whether other cases include cases like Bofors and whether Bofors case is being inquired into?

[*English*]

MR. SPEAKER : What about the Bofors cases referred to these courts.

SHRIMATI MARGARET ALVA : Bofors cases are today at the level where they are not in the Indian courts. When the matter came up before the High Court, they were dealt with by the High Court itself which has not gone into them. (*Interruptions*).

SHRI SHARAD DIGHE : Here is an answer which states that the courts are functioning in certain States only. What steps are being taken by the Central Government to see that the Special Courts to try corruption cases are also established in the remaining States ?

SHRIMATI MARGARET ALVA : Though under the legislation, the Central Government has the power to set up the Special Courts in the States, I must say that we cannot really set them up without the cooperation and involvement of the State Governments and the State High Courts,

because they have to function within the State.

As I said, in certain States, 10 of them we have established. There are certain other States where they are under active consideration; and we are in consultation with the States. They are in Tamil Nadu, West Bengal, Maharashtra, Assam, Gujarat and Orissa. We hope that we will be able to set them up in the near future. There are certain States where we feel that they must be set up, but we have not had a positive response from these States. We are trying to push it and we hope we will succeed.

[*Translation*]

SHRI RAM NAIK : Mr. Speaker, Sir, the hon. Minister gave the names of many States in her reply given to this question. But the name of Maharashtra State was not included. It has been said that no decision about Maharashtra has been taken so far, whereas the maximum number of CBI cases and corruption cases pertain to Maharashtra. I would like to know whether the Government is not receiving positive response from the Government of Maharashtra in regard to setting up of these Courts. If so, the reasons therefore. Will the Government like to give information in this regard?

[*English*]

SHRIMATI MARGARET ALVA : Sir, I do agree that there are certain States where the need for the special courts we have been emphasising. These are West Bengal, Maharashtra, Bihar and Tamil Nadu where number of cases are pending.

We have been in consultation with the State Governments. Sometimes it is a question of accommodation, sometimes it is a question of other facilities which are needed.

As I said this is one of the States where it is at the final stages and we hope that very soon they will be set up.

[Translation]

SHRI BRISHIN PATEL : Mr. Speaker, Sir, through you, I would like to know from the Government whether any provision has been made to dispose of the cases of corruption within a stipulated period while setting up these special Courts. If this provision is there, then it is all right and if not whether the Government would like to make such a provision for disposing of cases within a fixed period.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: I think, this is provided in the Criminal Procedure Code.

[Translation]

SHRI BRISHIN PATEL : Sir, there is discontentment in the manner corruption cases are decided.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: You have to understand the law and then ask the question. This is a complicated manner.

[Translation]

SHRI VIJOY KUMAR YADAV : Mr. Speaker, Sir, the spirit of this question is that corruption cases should be disposed of at the earliest. I would like to know from the hon. Minister the number of pending cases and since when these are pending? Moreover, what time has been taken in disposing of the previous cases.

[English]

SHRIMATI MARGARET ALVA : Out of the total number of 4,247 cases pending in this area, we have 532 cases which are pending for less than one year; there are 390 cases which are pending for 1 to 2 years; cases which are pending for 7 to 8 years are 301. This is the break-up of the cases pending.

The point is that it is not just a question of the CBI having to push them through. There are processes, there are various other issues which come in and the courts have to cooperate in disposing them of as far as possible. It is not that we are delaying them, the processes themselves take time and in spite of having the special courts there are certain cases which have taken.

[Translation]

SHRI GUMAN MAL LODHA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, in the majority of corruption cases challans are filed after their investigation by the Anti Corruption Department, Investigating Agency, CBI is involved in a few cases only. In most of the cases challans are filed when the witness has to come from a distance of 300 or 400 kilometres to appear in the Special Court of a State. It causes delay. I would like to ask the Government whether the State Government will be requested to set up a special court in every district and if it is not possible to do so then these courts be set up in every division. Will the Central Government provide any financial assistance in this regard?

[English]

SHRIMATI MARGARET ALVA: As per this scheme, now we pay 50 per cent of the expenditure of the courts involved including

non-recurring expenditure which is involved in setting up of the courts. But in the case of Punjab, for instance, we had agreed to give 100 per cent because of the special circumstances in which the courts were needed at various times for CBI cases including anti-terrorist and other problems which were there.

So, I must say that where we find that there is a heavy pendency we have more courts. For instance, in Rajasthan, we have got a court in Jaipur and one in Jodhpur as well as one Magistrate's court, a second one in Jaipur.

[*Translation*]

There are three such special courts in Rajasthan. The Government is prepared to increase the number of such courts but it requires the cooperation of the State Government also.

[*English*]

Space Technology

*285. DR. VASANT NIWRUTTI PAWAR : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Indian Space Research Organisation proposes to enter into bilateral agreements with other countries for the development and application of Space Technology for peaceful purposes;

(b) the names of such countries ; and

(c) the countries with which such agreements are existing at present?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE

DEPARTMENTS OF ATOMIC ENERGY AND DEPARTMENT OF SPACE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (SHRI BHUVNESH CHATURVEDI): (a). Yes, Sir. The Indian Space Research Organisation is willing to consider bilateral cooperation with Space agencies in other countries in the peaceful uses of outer space.

(b) Japan, Italy, Hungary, Vietnam, Ukraine, Mauritius and Kazakhstan are among the countries which have shown interest in entering into an agreement with ISRO on cooperation in the peaceful uses of space technology.

(c) We already have such bilateral cooperation agreements with European Space Agency (ESA), French National Space Agency (CNES), German Aerospace Research Establishment (DLR), Swedish Board for Space Activities (SBSA), China National Space Agency and General Organisation for Remote Sensing (Syria).

[*English*]

DR. VASANT NIWRUTTI PAWAR: The Indian Space Research Organisation is doing a commendable job. I must say. They have got a unique concept of GRAMSAT satellite as well as the Indian Remote Sensing Satellite, IRS-IA through which the peaceful application of this technology is useful in agriculture, crop acreage and yield estimate, drought management, flood mapping, land use, wasteland management, water resources management and forest resources management also. Apart from communication, television broadcasts, meteorology, the only important part of the technology is disaster warning. I would like to ask the hon. Minister categorically whether we have entered into any sort of an agreement with any other country where we