

(c) Opening of residential schools for girls is the concern of the State Governments and UT Administrations.

Discipline in Universities

1624. SHRI ARJUN CHARAN SETHI: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have taken specific steps to preserve discipline in the Universities and colleges in the country to maintain high standard of teaching; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI ARJUN SINGH): (a) and (b) In pursuance NPE-86, the Government & UGC have taken several initiatives to improve the standard of education in institutions of higher learning. Some of the major steps taken in this regard are:

—Revision of pay scales of college and university Teachers w.e.f. 1-1-1986. Opportunities provided for training and career advancement for teachers. All-India Eligibility Test introduced to attract best talent to the teaching profession.

—Academic staff colleges established for re-orientation of newly appointed university and college Teachers.

—27 Curriculum Development Centres in Sciences and Humanities established to modernise curricula. Model curricula has been prepared for 27 disciplines in under-graduate and post-graduate courses.

—Financial assistance provided by UGC for improvement in teaching and research under Special Assistance Programmes, like Centres of Advanced Study, COSIP, COHSSIP, COSIST, etc.

—Inter-University Centres established by UGC to provide front-line facilities and services for advancement of research in the university system.

—Higher priority given to grant of autonomy to selected Colleges and University Departments.

—Guidelines for implementation of an Academic Calendar circulated. These guidelines emphasize observance of at least 180 teaching days by universities/colleges.

—Regulations for minimum standards for the award of first degree, minimum working days etc. notified by UGC.

News Item "Major Indus site Found in Kutch"

1625. DR. A. K. PATEL:

SHRI SHANKERSINGH VAGHELA:

Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether attention of the Government has been drawn to the news-item captioned "Major Indus site found in Kutch" appearing in the Times of India dated February 18, 1991;

(b) if so, the major finds of the Archaeological Survey of India in its aforesaid excavations;

(c) whether any archaeological/historical conclusions have been drawn from these discoveries in the direction of reconstructing ancient Indian history;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) the agency which is doing the excavation and assessment work; and

(f) the details of other excavation works of the above nature going on currently along with sites selected for the purpose?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI ARJUN SINGH): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The excavations at Dholavira, District Kutch, Gujarat, conducted during season 1990-91 by the Archaeological Survey of India have brought to light successive settlement of Pre-Harappan, Proto-Harappan, mature-Harappan and later periods along with their distinct potteries and other items. Principal features of Harappan (Indus) city comprised remains of an imposing citadel with monumental gateways and a water reservoir inside, a middle and a lower town. Significant finds included remains of stone pillars, flights of steps and seals, sealings, weights, mother goddess figures in terracotta, copper implements and ornaments, beads of various types, characteristic pottery and boldly inlaid nine letters in Harappan script on a floor.

(c) and (d) Yes, Sir. The evidence unearthed has provided a new model of proto-historic urban planning and style of architecture of the Harappans with developed system of water management, stone dressing showing the probable use of lathe for shaping pillars. All these features are vitally important for reconstructing the technological and cultural history of the country.

(e) Excavation Branch V of the Archaeological Survey of India carried out both excavation and assessment work.

(f) No excavation relating to Pre-Harappan occupation is being carried out at present.

[*Translation*]

Difficulties in Study/Teaching of Sanskrit

1626. **SHRI RAJVEER SINGH:** Will the Minister of HUMAN RE-

SOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have been apprised of the difficulties being faced in the study/teaching of Sanskrit;

(b) the number of Sanskrit Vidyalayas functioning at present in the country;

(c) whether the Government have formulated any scheme to remove the difficulties being faced in the study/teaching of Sanskrit and for the smooth functioning of such Vidyalayas; and

(d) if so, the details of the scheme?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI ARJUN SINGH): (a) No, Sir. The Government have not been apprised of any specific difficulties being faced in the study/teaching of Sanskrit, except the need to coordinate and maintain standards of teaching.

(b) The number of Sanskrit Vidyalayas functioning at present in the country is not known. However, according to preliminary information collected so far from 15 States/UTs there are approx. 2000 Sanskrit Pathshalas/institutions being run by Voluntary Organisations.

(c) and (d) School Education, including Sanskrit institutions, is primarily the concern of the State Governments/UT Administrations. However, looking to the importance of Sanskrit, the Central Government have been implementing several schemes to support and promote the cause of Sanskrit education. For this purpose financial assistance is made available to ensure the smooth functioning of Sanskrit institutions/Vidyalayas under the following schemes:

(i) *Development of Sanskrit Education*

(a) Scholarship to students studying Sanskrit in Secondary/Sr. Secondary schools.