

Quality Stationery products

2612. SHRI MUKUL WASNIK: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether with the increase in literacy alongside increase in school attendance and higher education the requirement for stationery products has also been increased considerably;

(b) if so, whether the Government have any plans to encourage research and development to manufacture better quality stationery products at lower prices; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

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

(b) and (c). The prices of exercise books are essentially determined by the prices of white printing paper. The Central Pulp & Paper Research Institute at Saharanpur is engaged in R&D activities related to paper. There are already a number of fiscal incentives for promoting research and development in industry which can be availed by the paper industry.

Education to the Children of Devadasis

**2613. SHRI SHANKERSINH VAGHELA:
DR. A.K. PATEL:**

Will the Minister of WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Indian Health Organisation has recommended that top-priority should be given to the education of the Devadasis' children and families practising the system so as to remove myths and misconceptions about the system;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the steps proposed to be taken by the Union Government to discourage the Devadasis system; and

(d) steps taken in the past and the result thereof?

THE MINISTER OF WELFARE (SHRI SITARAM KESRI): (a) and (b). The information is being collected.

(c) and (d). The provisions of the Immoral Traffic (Prevention) Act, 1956 as amended in 1978 and 1986, supplement the provisions of the substantive laws against kidnapping, sale abduction, and wrongful detention of women and girls. The Act also envisages setting up of protective homes of corrective institutions for the care, protection, treatment, education and rehabilitation of the rescued women and girls. The Act is applicable to all States/UTs. Its implementation rests with the concerned State/UTs. The State Govts. of Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka and Maharashtra have their own Acts for prohibition of this practice.

Performance of Navodaya Vidyalayas

2614. SHRIMATI MALINI BHATTACHARYA: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have ever evaluated the performance of Navodaya Vidyalayas scheme;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the total expenditure incurred on the scheme so far; and

(d) the criteria adopted for admission in the Navodaya Vidyalayas?