

THE MINISTER OF EDUCATION, SOCIAL WELFARE AND CULTURE (DR. PRATAP CHANDRA CHUNDER): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) In classes I to V, environmental studies has replaced "Science" as a subject. This is to highlight the approach laying stress on the environment. For classes I and II, the content of study includes units of instruction from the immediate social, physical, and biological environment such as Our home, Our neighbourhood and Our school etc.

For classes III to V, the subject Environmental Studies is organised in units corresponding to some segments of environment. For example in class III, some of the units are earth, sky, the weather, soil and its relations to crops, force work and energy materials and their properties, living things, human body, nutrition and health etc.

Environmental studies aims at enabling children to observe their environment and to enrich their experience, thereby developing skills such as observing, communicating, measuring, experimenting, etc.

Revamping of Sahitya, Sangeet and Natak Akademies

1031. SHRI VASANT SATHE: Will the Minister of EDUCATION, SOCIAL WELFARE AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a proposal under consideration of the Government to revamp/restructure Sahitya Academy, and Sangeet Natak Akademy; and

(b) if so, salient features thereof?

THE MINISTER OF EDUCATION, SOCIAL WELFARE AND CULTURE (DR. PRATAP CHANDRA CHUNDER): (a) and (b). While there is no single proposal under consideration for restructuring Sahitya Akademy

and Sangeet Natak Akademy, the question of improving the functioning of all the three Akademies is a continuing concern of the Government.

Rationalisation of Grants to Universities

1032. SHRI VASANT SATHE: Will the Minister of EDUCATION, SOCIAL WELFARE AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether some Universities serving the needs of predominantly urbanites are given grants at higher rate than those serving semi-urban areas; and

(b) if so, what action is proposed to rationalise the award of Central grants to Universities?

THE MINISTER OF EDUCATION, SOCIAL WELFARE AND CULTURE (DR. PRATAP CHANDRA CHUNDER): (a) According to the information furnished by the University Grants Commission, universities serving the needs of predominantly urban population are not given grants at higher rate than those serving semi-urban areas.

(b) Does not arise.

Complaints regarding State Awards

1033. SHRI SHIV NARAIN SARSONIA: Will the Minister of EDUCATION, SOCIAL WELFARE AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Delhi Administration and Education Ministry have received complaints regarding the State Award for the year 1976-77;

(b) if so, what steps have been taken by the Delhi Administration and the Ministry in this regard; and

(c) whether some awards are being given on the basis of Political pressure?

THE MINISTER OF EDUCATION, SOCIAL WELFARE AND CULTURE (DR. PRATAP CHANDRA CHUNDER): (a) and (b). A few complaints have been received by the Delhi Administration and are being examined by them.

(c) No, Sir.

Modernization of Bullock Carts

1034. SHRI G. Y. KRISHNAN: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND IRRIGATION be pleased to state

(a) whether Government propose to modernise the bullock carts with rubber tyres and existing wooden wheel;

(b) whether the country has surplus rubber production; and

(c) if so, the policy of Government to utilise the surplus rubber to manufacture rubber tyres for the benefit of the poor farmers in the country?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND IRRIGATION (SHRI SURJIT SINGH BARNALA): (a) to

The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House by the concerned Ministry.

Cases of Excess over Yardsticks provided for Government Accommodation for Ministers

1035. SHRI A. BALA PAJANOR: Will the Minister of WORKS AND HOUSING AND SUPPLY AND REHABILITATION be pleased to state:

(a) expenditure incurred or proposed to be incurred in respect of alterations, additions, renovations, furnishings, distempering etc. in the Government accommodations for Cabinet Ministers and functionaries of equal rank since the last two months;

(b) break-up of the above expenditure according to each individual Minister;

(c) the yardsticks in force in this regard and the extent to which yardsticks have been followed; and

(d) cases of excess over yardsticks and reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF WORKS AND HOUSING AND SUPPLY AND REHABILITATION (SHRI SIKANDAR BAKHT): (a) and (b). As in the statement laid on the Table of the Sabha. [Placed in Library. See No. LT-405/77].

(c) and (d). There is a yardstick only for the free supply of furniture, furnishing and electrical appliances like airconditioning, water-coolers, geysers, refrigerators etc. This is as follows:—

1. Ministers (whether of Cabinet rank or otherwise:	Rs. 38,500
2. Deputy Minister	Rs. 22,500
3. Speaker, Lok Sabha	Rs. 38,500
4. Dy. Speaker, Lok Sabha	Rs. 38,500
5. Dy. Chairman, Rajya Sabha	Rs. 38,500
6. Members of the Planning Commission	Rs. 38,500
7. Chief Justice of the Supreme Court of India	Rs. 38,500
8. Judges of the Supreme Court	Rs. 30,000

The yardstick has not been exceeded so far as free supply is concerned. There is a provision for charging rent whenever anybody wants any furniture, furnishing in excess of the yardstick for free supply. Only Justice A. C. Gupta had been supplied at his request, furniture/furnishing worth Rs. 1647/- in excess of Rs. 30,000/- fixed for Judges of the Supreme Court of India. For this, Shri Gupta is paying hire charges plus the departmental charges on the cost of the items supplied in excess.