

MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (PROF. M.G.K. MENON): (a) The University Grants Commission provides development grants to the universities to promote the quality and level of teaching and research. These grants also include assistance for purchase of books and journals by universities.

(b) During the last three years, the UGC provided a total grant of Rs. 1820.74 lakhs to 101 universities for books and journals.

(c) Berhampur University, Orissa was provided a total grant of Rs. 16.50 lakhs during the last three years for purchase of books and journals.

Computer Technology for Indian Languages

4815. **SHRI PYARELAL KHANDELWAL:** Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Department of Electronics is responsible for developing computer technology for Indian languages; and

(b) if so, the details of the schemes targets, funding, achievements and full time manpower for programme coordination for the above purposes?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (PROF. M.G.K. MENON): (a) and (b). Yes, Sir. Department of Electronics has drawn up a programme, namely, Technology Development for Indian Languages (TDIL) for implementation during the Eighth Plan. The main target and expected achievements of this programme include development of authoring system; language learning systems, especially for slow learners,

speech and hearing impaired; limited domain computer assisted translation system; human-machine interface systems such as shorthand and character recognition system; multi-lingual information display system; limited vocabulary speech input-output systems etc.

An amount of Rs. 17 crores is estimated for this programme during the 8th Plan but this is yet to be finalised.

The programme coordination will be done by a core group within the Department of Electronics.

National Service Scheme

4816. **SHRI CHIRANJI LAL SHARMA:** Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the salient features of the National Service Scheme; and

(b) the steps proposed to be taken to make it more effective and creative with a view to channelise the youth energy in the right direction?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (PROF. M.G.K. MENON): (a) The objective of the National Service Scheme (NSS) is to develop the personality of students through community service and to arouse social consciousness by providing opportunity to interact constructively and work creatively with people. Any Student in college or in university who volunteers for NSS is expected to remain in it for a continuous period of two years, and is required to render social service for a minimum of 120 hours per annum, besides, participating in special camping programmes. The Scheme