

female literacy campaign in Mewat, the Union Government has not received any request so far.

#### **Assistance to Youth Clubs**

2035. SHRI SUDHIR SAWSANT: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are considering the proposal to increase the amount of assistance given to youth clubs;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DEPARTMENT OF YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS AND DEPARTMENT OF WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT (KUMARI MAMATA BANERJEE): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c). Suitable increase in financial assistance, both recurring as well as non-recurring, as also the period of eligibility for recurring grants is being examined in consultation with the finance authorities. Much would depend on the availability of funds under the 8th Five Year Plan.

[*Translation*]

#### **Workload of Children in Primary Classes**

2036. SHRI CHHEDI PASWAN: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether a Committee has been constituted under the chairmanship of Prof. Yashpal with a view to reducing the workload of the children in primary classes;

(b) if so, whether the Committee has submitted its report to the Government;

(c) if so, the main recommendations

thereof; and

(d) the steps being taken by the Government in this regard?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION AND DEPARTMENT OF CULTURE (KUMARI SELJA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) No Sir.

(c) and (d). does not arise.

[*English*]

#### **Broad-Gauge Rail Link Between Madras and Dindigul and Madurai-Maniyachchi**

2037. SHRI K.V. THANGKA BALU: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal to construct broad-gauge railway line from Madras to Dindigul Via Villupuram and Tiruchirappalli and from Madurai to Maniyachi; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MALLAKARJUN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) A new work of conversion of Madras-Dindigul section has been included in the Budget for 1992-93 of this, subsection Madras-Chengalpattu is targetted for completion during 1992-93. The conversion of Madurai-Maniyachchi is part of the ongoing Kaarur-Dindigul-Madurai-Maniyachi Tonticorin/Talaiyuthu project. This section is also targetted for completion in 1992-93.

#### **Smuggling of Snake Skins**

2038. SHRIMATI SAROJ DUBEY: SHRI MANJAY LAL:

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether snake skins worth over Rs. 10 lakh were recently seized at the Indira Gandhi Air Port, Delhi;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the annual seizure of snake skins at various points of smuggling and the estimated value of snake skins smuggled out of the country unchecked during the last one year;

(d) whether the Government have made efforts to identify the illegal traders of snake skins and their contact both within the country and outside;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) the measures taken or proposed to be taken to prevent such incidents in future?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI KAMAL NATH): (a) and (b). On 21.5.92, 1848 pieces of snake skins driven from python, rat snake and water snake were seized by the Delhi Custom Authorities from a Swedish National. No precise value of the seized skins can be determined as there is no legal trade in the species in this country. However, the value of consignment in panchnama has been assessed to be approximately Rs. 1.84 lakhs.

(c) The seizures made by the Custom Authorities at Bombay, Madras, Calcutta and Delhi during 1991 were as follows:

Name of Port	No. of snake skins/ items seized
Madras	76 wallets and 49 page
Calcutta	4 snake skin purses
Delhi	199 skins and 28 skin articles
Bombay	4421 skins and 157 items
<b>Total</b>	<b>4420 skins and 157 items</b>

(d) and (e). Wherever during cross examination of the persons apprehended with the illicit goods, some information regarding others engaged in the illegal trade comes to light, raids on trading establishments are carried out with the help of local police authorities the result varying from case to case.

( ) Measures taken to prevent such incidents are:

1. Regional/Degional Deputy Directors, Wildlife Preservation have been posted at four major ports i.e. Calcutta, Bombay, Delhi and Madras. Asset Directors,

wildlife Preservation, have been posted at Cochin, Guwahati and Pathankot. These Officers and wildlife inspectors posted under them carry out surprise checkings at the port with the help of Custom authorities.

ii. The officials of state wildlife wing also carry out periodic checkings of the stocks held by the licensed dealers under the orders of Hon'ble High Courts. Raids are also organised by these officials to apprehend illegal traders, whenever any intelligence in this regard is received.

iii. A system of cash rewards has been

introduced for getting intelligence about smugglers.

iv. India being a member of the "Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of wild Fauna and Flora", cooperation of International Community is also obtained in apprehending the smugglers.

v. Cooperation of Directorate of Revenue Intelligence, Coast Guard, Border Security Force and C.R. P. F. is also taken in safeguarding against smuggling of wild-life products.

[*Translation*]

#### **Sick Sugar Mills In Uttar Pradesh**

2039. SHRI SURENDRA PAL PATAK: Will the Minister of FOOD be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of sugar mills in Uttar Pradesh and the number of sick mills out of them;

(b) whether the Union Government have received any proposal/memorandum from the Government of Uttar Pradesh for the revival of these sick mills

(c) if so, the steps taken by the Government thereon; and

(d) the number of applications/proposals/memoranda received by the Government in this regard during the last three years and the number of mills out of them revived so far by the Government ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI KAMALUDDIN AHMED): (a) There are 106 sugar mills installed in the State on Uttar Pradesh. Under the provisions of the Sick Industrial Companies (Special Provisions) Act, 1985 companies which become sick have to be referred to the Board for Industrial and Financial Re-

construction (BIFR). These provisions have now been extended to cover public sector undertakings also. BIFR has intimated that cases of five sugar undertakings from Uttar Pradesh have been reported to them and out of these, four were found to be not maintainable. The remaining one case is being processed. Information regarding sick sugar factories in the cooperative sector is not maintained.

(b) to (d). No proposals/memoranda have been received from the Government of Uttar Pradesh in the Ministry of Food regarding revival of sick sugar mills, Sick sugar mills have to themselves prepare schemes for rehabilitation/modernisation and get them approved by the financial institutions. Financial assistance is also available from the sugar Development Fund for such rehabilitation/modernisation schemes subject to their fulfilling the conditions laid down.

[*English*]

#### **Fare and Freight Committee**

2040. SHRI TARA CHAND KHANDELWAL: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government constituted fare and freight Committee to look into the ticket concession policy of the Railways.

(b) if so, whether the Committee has since submitted its report to the Government;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether the Government propose to cut down railway fare concessions for some categories;

(e) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor; and

(f) by when it is likely to be implemented?