

(c) The registration, investigation, detection and prevention of crime including crime against women is the responsibility of the State Governments/Union Territory Administrations. They take action to register cases, undertake investigation and file cases in the Courts of law. Adequate legal provisions already exist in the Indian Penal Code, the Criminal Procedure Code, 1973 and the Indian Evidence Act, 1872 to deal effectively with all crimes against women including dowry death cases and cases of cruelty to married women. However, it is recognised that very much more needs to be done in the matter of implementation of the existing mechanisms, and Government is seized of the issues involved for further necessary action.

Impact of Early Schooling

968. SHRI SANAT KUMAR MANDAL: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Indian Academy of Paediatrics convened in December last year a seminar-cum-workshop on the problems and perspectives of early schooling;

(b) if so, whether the experts participating at this seminar also opined that the tests and interviews, which are cruel to the child should be stopped as they serve no useful purpose and that there should be licensing of play centres for children below five years so that Government should have some control on their activities; and

(c) if so, the steps Government propose to take to check over-schooling the under fives, damaging their physical, mental and emotional health?

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 RESOURCES

DEVELOPMENT (PROF. M.G.K. MENON):

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c). The general tenor of the discussion in the Workshop was against the extension of the teaching methods of Class-I syllabus downwards to K.G. and often Nursery Classes. The recommendation is that no formal education like reading, writing and a arithmetic etc. should be introduced for children of the age group 3-6 years. Other recommendations were that interviews for admission to formal schools should be stopped and that there should be proper licensing of neighborhood schools to check mushrooming of improper schools. The report of the Workshop is still being finalised by the Delhi Chapter of the Indian Academy of Paediatrics. The recommendations of the Workshop have not been presented to the Government so far.

Lowering of Service Limit for Voluntary Retirement

969. SHRI BHAJAMAN BEHERA : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the employees unions are demanding for lowering the service limit for seeking voluntary retirement from Government service; and

(b) if so, the reaction of Government thereto?

THE PRIME MINISTER (SHRI VISHWANATH PRATAP SINGH) (a) and (b). Representations were received from various organisations to lower the stipulated period of service for seeking voluntary retirement from Government service. The suggestion made was examined but was not found acceptable.

Revamping of the Planning Commission

970. SHRI PRAKASH V. PATIL: Will the PRIME MINISTER pleased to state :