

Project Towards Freedom

1623. SHRI Y.S RAJASEKHAR REDDY: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have asked Indian Council of Historical Research to wind up the prestigious project "Towards Freedom" and hand over the volumes to the national Archives;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) if not, when the project is likely to be completed?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIRAJMANGAL PANDE): (a) and (b). At one stage it was decided to withdraw the project from the Council on account of very slow progress. However, on reconsideration, the Council was allowed to continue with the Project.

(c) The project is likely to be completed?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIRAJMANGAL PANDE): (a) and (b). At one stage it was decided to withdraw the project from the Council on account of very slow progress. However, on reconsideration, the Council was allowed to continue with the project.

(c) the project is likely to be completed by December, 1992.

Drop Out Rate of Primary and High School Students Belonging to SC/ST and OBC

1624. SHRI JANARDHANAPOOJARY: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the drop out rate of primary and high school students belonging to SCs/STs and other backward classes in the country as on February 28, 1991;

(b) the reasons for the high drop out rate; and

(c) the measures taken to reduce the same?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIRAJMANGAL PANDE): (a) Education statistics is collected every academic year by the State governments with 30th September as reference date. According to the latest available date (1987-88) the drop out rates at the primary stage (classes I-V) are 51.69% for SCs and 65.2% for STs. The corresponding figures for the high school stage (classes I-X) are 81.64% for SCs and 87.62% for STs. Statistics on other Backward Classes is not maintained.

(b) Drop out rates can be traced to socio economic factors.

(c) Some of the measures taken to reduce drop out rates are the following:

- Provision of incentives such as scholarships, uniforms, textbooks, hostel facilities etc.
- Improvement of facilities in primary schools under the schemes like Operation Blackboard.
- Opening of new schools in SC/ST localities.

Saturated Fat in Hydrogenated Oils

1625. PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state: