

ments signed between India and Japan recently?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI ARJUN SINGH): No Cultural Agreements have been signed between India and Japan recently.

Stock Limit of oil Seeds

1895. SHRI RAM SINGH KASHWAN:
SHRIMATI BHAVNA
CHIKHALIA:

Will the Minister of CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have increased the stock limit of oil and oil seeds for the wholesalers and retailers; and

(b) if so, the extent of increase thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION AND MINISTRY OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI KAMALUDDIN AHMED) : (a) and (b) Yes, sir. the stock limits of edible oil seeds and oils that may be held by producers have been doubled by Government with effect from 8th February, 1993.

[English]

National quality Council

1896. SHRI S.B. THORAT:
SHRI DHARMANNA
MONDAYYA SADUL:

Will the Minister of CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are con-

sidering to constitute a national quality council as quality certifying agency in the country;

(b) if so, the details of the proposal formulated or proposed to be formulated; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI KAMALUDDIN AHMED) : (a) to (c). The matter of setting up of the National Quality Council is under consideration of the Government.

Pre-School Education

1897. SHRI SRIKANTA JENA:
SHRIMATI GIRIJA DEVI:

Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have examined the question of doing away with the addition tests in schools and fixing of minimum age for pre-school admission; and

(b) if so, the decision taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI ARJUN SINGH) (a) and (b). The NCERT is strongly of the view that admission tests in schools at the pre-primary stage should be abolished. The Programme of Action (1992) for implementation of NPE also calls for discouraging entrance tests for admission at pre-primary stage. The NCERT has also recommended that minimum age for admission at pre-primary stage should be 3 1/2 years when most children are maturationally and expe-

rentially ready to come away from home.

Necessary action in the matter is to be taken by the respective State Governments/ UT Administrations in accordance with their rules and regulations.

Hostel Facilities

1898. SHRIMATI BIBHU KUMARI DEVI: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCES DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have received any complaints from the students of the North Eastern States and the other tribal areas about the lack of hostel facilities in Delhi and other Central Universities; and

(b) if so, the action taken by the Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI ARJUN SINGH): (a) Government do not appear to have received any complaints.

(b) Does not arise.

Academic Performance of students

1899. SHRI JAGAT VIR SINGH DRONA: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the government have analysed the academic performance of students getting scholarship for sports;

(b) if so, the details of the last two years;

(c) the number of cases where Government decided to terminate the scholarships in view of dismal academic performance of such students; and

(d) the remedial steps taken in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DEPARTMENT OF YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS) AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI MUKUL WASNIK): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The benefit of renewal of scholarship is granted generally in case of the students who pass the last annual examination besides maintaining/improving proficiency in sports. However, condensation of one failure has been now permitted. The scholarships of 60 scholars who had failed during the year 1991-92 have been renewed. For the year 1992-93 65 such are being renewed.

(c) Only seven scholars have been denied the benefit of renewal of the scholarship due to dismal academic performance.

(d) Earlier passing of Annual Examination and maintaining steady performance in sports was necessary and Government has decided to condone one failure for giving benefit of renewal of scholarship.

Railway Projects in Maharashtra

1900. SHRI RAM NAIK: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is delay in the implementation of certain railway projects in Maharashtra;

(b) if so, the number and names of such projects;

(c) the dates of commencement of these projects and the time schedule fixed for completion of these projects;

(d) the original estimated cost and the revised cost of these projects separately; and