

Technical training to students in minority concentration areas

2749. SHRI ANANTA PRASAD SETHI : Will the Minister of EDUCATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is any proposal under the consideration of Government to impart technical training to students in minority concentration areas ; and

(b) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF EDUCATION (SHRI K.C. PANT) : (a) and (b). There is no proposal, at present, under consideration of Government to provide further facilities to impart technical training to students in minority concentrated areas. However, during 1984-85, 10 polytechnics in the country were selected to provide facilities to the candidates in the minority concentrated areas in acquiring technical skills. These polytechnics have been designated as Community Polytechnics. In addition to their normal responsibility of conducting diploma courses in various branches of engineering and technology, these polytechnics have also undertaken the activity of conducting short-term skill training courses in various trades relevant to the local needs of the respective minority concentrated areas. The skill/technical training courses offered by them at their own campus as well as in the extension centres set up by these institutions for the purpose, extend over a period of three to six months. At present 922 students are undergoing this skill training in various trades.

Grant to voluntary educational institutions

2750. SHRI JITENDRA PRASADA : Will the Minister of EDUCATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have been providing grant to the private voluntary educational institutions for running schools in rural areas of the country particularly in Uttar Pradesh;

(b) whether Government have received complaints about the misuse of the grant by these institutions ; and

(c) if so, the steps taken or proposed to be taken by Government to check such misuse of public funds and ensure the proper utilisation of the grant ?

THE MINISTER OF EDUCATION (SHRI K.C. PANT) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c). Does not arise.

Promotion of sprinkler irrigation

2751. SHRI VIJAY N. PATIL : Will the Minister of IRRIGATION AND POWER be pleased to state :

(a) whether Central Government have started any scheme to promote sprinkler irrigation in the country ; and

(b) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF IRRIGATION AND POWER (SHRI B. SHANKARANAND) : (a) and (b). Yes Sir. Under the scheme a subsidy is paid @ 50% to small and marginal farmers and 20% to other farmers for installation of sprinkler/drip irrigation system. The upper limit of subsidy for small and marginal farmers is Rs. 20,000/- and for other farmers it is Rs. 8,000/-. The cost of subsidy is shared equally between the Centre and the State Government concerned.

Shipping deal of Cochin Shipyard

2752. SHRI G.G. SWELL :
SHRI K. PRADHANI :

Will the Minister of SHIPPING AND TRANSPORT be pleased to state :

(a) whether recently the Cochin Shipyard purchased four ships from Poland at a cost of Rs. 22 crores each as against an offer of similar ships at Rs. 3 crores each by West Germany ;

(b) if so, the reasons for such a bizarre decision involving loss to the Government exchequer of Rs. 19 crores per ship ; and

(c) whether as a result the whole deal is under scrutiny ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING AND TRANSPORT (SHRI Z. R. ANSARI) : (a) and (b). The Cochin Shipyard has not been purchasing any ships from Poland or any other country. However, CSL has