

children in their formative years get an opportunity for allround development. Study of languages, Sciences, Mathematics and Social Sciences has been made compulsory upto Class X. Health and Physical Education, Socially Useful Productive Work and Fine Arts have also been made compulsory subjects. At the Higher Secondary stage, i.e. +2 stage, diversified courses, both academic and vocational, have been provided so that education at this stage is comprehensive. The 10+2 system of education is an improvement over the old system in the following respects :—

- (i) General education is for Ten Years instead of seven or eight years as it was in earlier system.
- (ii) The branching or diversification of courses takes place when child is sixteen and is exposed to all major areas of knowledge to choose from according to his interest and aptitude.
- (iii) This system ensures better access to educational opportunities and equity as it has done away with differentiated course or courses with two levels of competencies in a single subject.
- (iv) The new system is made more work oriented, helps to build a better attitude towards every kind of work including manual work and promotes a better work ethic and develops productivity consciousness among pupils.
- (v) The 10+2 system is aimed at siphoning off a large section of students to vocational streams preparing them for suitable jobs at the end of class XII and thereby reduce pressure on Universities.

The 10+2 pattern of education has now been adopted by all States and Non Territories except Haryana,

Himachal Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, Punjab and Rajasthan. With the exception of Himachal Pradesh, these States have also decided to switch over to the 10+2 system in principle, and are presently involved in the process of necessary rationalization of courses, examination system etc.

(b) and (c) : No Central assistance has been given to the States/Union Territories for switching over to the 10+2 system of school education.

Nathpa Jhakhari Project

2731. SHRI SUKH RAM : Will the Minister of IRRIGATION AND POWER be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that the Nathpa Jhakhari Hydel Project in Himachal Pradesh has been cleared by the Department of Power ;

(b) if so, what would be its installed capacity and the estimate generation cost of power per unit ;

(c) whether financial provision has been made for its expenditure in the Seventh Plan of the State and the Centre ; and

(d) if so, how much and in what proportion between the State Government and the Central Government ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF POWER (SHRI ARUN NEHRU) : (a) to (d) : The Nathpa Jhakhari Hydro-electric Project, envisaging the installation of six units of 170 MW each, is proposed to be implemented as a joint-venture of the Governments of India and Himachal Pradesh, sharing the cost and benefits in the ratio of 75 : 25 respectively. The estimated unit sale cost of energy at power house bus-bar is 34.5 paise. Modalities for taking investment decision are in progress. A provision of Rs. 90.00 crores has been made in the Central Plan, during the Seventh Plan, for this project.