

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF EDUCATION AND CULTURE (SHRIMATI KRISHNA SAHI):

(a) As per the Navodaya Vidyalaya Scheme, the basis of admission to Navodaya Vidyalayas will be a test conducted in the concerned district, in which all children who have studied in, and passed class V from any of the schools of any tehsil/block in the district where the school is located would be eligible to appear. The test will be designed by the National Council of Educational Research and Training and they will be associated in its conduct and evaluation. The medium of the test will be mother-tongue or regional language. Tests would be largely of non-verbal nature, class-neutral and so designed as to ensure that talented children from rural schools are able to compete without suffering a disadvantage.

Since the Navodaya Vidyalayas will be primarily for children from rural areas, admission of children from urban areas will be restricted to a maximum of one-fourth.

Reservation of seats in favour of children belonging to the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes will be provided in proportion to their population in the concerned district, provided that in no district such reservation will be less than the national average. If sufficient number of children of one of these two categories do not qualify, it would be possible to interchange seats between the two categories.

(b) For the current academic session it has been decided to take teachers, who are presently employed in Central Government/State Governments/Union Territory Administrations/Public Sector Undertakings/Autonomous Organisations/Government aided or recognised schools, on transfer on deputation basis to Navodaya Vidyalayas.

(c) Yes, Sir. The teachers to be appointed for the Navodaya Vidyalayas will be given orientation and in-service training at the Regional Colleges of Education run by the National Council of Educational Research and Training.

Setting up of Ayurveda National Institute in Kerala

160. SHRI MULLAPPALLY RAMACHANDRAN: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state : .

(a) whether Government have plan to set up an Ayurveda National Institute in the State of Kerala ; and

(b) if so, where it is likely to be located?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (KUMARI SAROJ KHAPARDE) : (a) There is no proposal under consideration of the Government to set up an Ayurveda National Institute in Kerala.

(b) Does not arise.

Allocation For Promotion of Ayurveda System of Medicine

161. SHRI MULLAPPALLY RAMACHANDRAN : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state the quantum of allocation made under the Seventh Plan for the promotion of Ayurveda system of medicine?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (KUMARI SAROJ KHAPARDE) : Rupees 205 crores have been allocated for promotion of Ayurveda in the Seventh Five Year Plan.

Asiatic Society's Institute of Higher Sanskrit Studies and Research, Calcutta

162. SHRI MULLAPPALLY RAMACHANDRAN : Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Asiatic Society's Institute of Higher Sanskrit Studies and Research at Calcutta is on the verge of closure for want of funds ; and

(b) what steps, if any, have been taken by Government to revive and promote the study of Sanskrit in India?