

Kendriya Vidyalayas located in Bangalore.

(b) and (c). Children of employees of nationalised banks are considered for admission to the Kendriya Vidyalayas as per the priorities indicated in the admission policy. There is no proposal to revise the admission policy.

Afforestation on Barren Areas in Karnataka

2469. SHRI V.S. KRISHNA IYER : Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government of Karnataka has sent a Rs 100 Crore project to develop dry districts and hillock areas in the State on the lines of Western Ghat Scheme ;

(b) if so, the details thereof ;

(c) whether any external assistance has also been sought by the Karnataka Government in this regard ; and

(d) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI Z.R. ANSARI) :
(a) No, Sir.

(b) to (d). Do not arise.

Navodaya Vidyalayas in Kerala

2470. SHRI A. CHARLES : Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) the number of Navodaya Vidyalayas sanctioned for the State of Kerala during the Seventh Plan period ;

(b) the number of Vidyalayas started so far ;

(c) the amount so far spent on each Vidyalaya ;

(d) whether any target date has been fixed for starting the Navodaya Vidyalayas in Kerala ; and

(e) if so, whether the target has been achieved and if not, the reasons for the delay ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE

DEPARTMENTS OF EDUCATION AND CULTURE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI L.P. SHAHI) : (a) So far, in the first four years of the 7th Plan period, ten Navodaya Vidyalayas have been sanctioned, four in 1986-87, three in 1987-88 and three in 1988-89.

(b) Seven Navodaya Vidyalayas have been started so far. Three more Navodaya Vidyalayas are expected to start during this month.

(c) The amount spent on each Vidyalaya depends on the year in which it is started. In the first year, we spent approximately Rs. 9.00 lakhs on its recurring costs, in the second year approximately Rs. 13.00 lakhs and in the third year approximately Rs. 17.00 lakhs.

(d) All Navodaya Vidyalayas in the country (excluding snow-bound areas) including Kerala are expected to start in the last week of July of every year.

(e) The target has so far been not achieved since the admission test and its results could not be processed in time in the initial stages of the implementation of this new Scheme.

Construction of VSP

2471. SHRI E. AYYAPU REDDY : Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Public Investment Board (PIB) has approved during the last week of June a massive investment of Rs. 6,849/- crores in the construction of Visakhapatnam Steel Plant ;

(b) whether the proposals were held up on account of non-clearance from the Department of Environment ; and

(c) whether after this approval by the Public Investment Board the Steel Plant would be commissioned as scheduled ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF STEEL IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI YOGENDRA MAKWANA) : (a) Government approved a revision of cost estimates amounting to Rs. 6849.70 crores of Visakhapatnam Steel Plant in June 1988.

(b) Although some time was taken in finalising the conditions to be observed by the plant from the environmental point of view, this did not in any way hold up work on the implementation of the project.

(c) All efforts are being made to commission the project on schedule.

Closure of Mines in Bihar and Orissa

2472. SHRI CHINTAMANI JENA : Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state :

(a) whether a large number of mines in the eastern part of Bihar and Orissa have been closed down, if so, the details and reasons thereof ;

(b) the details of effect on the mineral production ; and

(c) the steps being taken to restart these mines ?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI M.L. FOTEDAR) : (a) to (c). The Government of Orissa have reported that about 60 mines mainly of iron ore, manganese ore, chinaclay, graphite, quartz and quartz-zite, limestone and dolomite have been closed. Closure of these mines are due to various reasons like lack of market for chinaclay, quartz and quartz-zite, limestone and dolomite ; low grade and lack of infrastructure in respect of graphite ; and reduction in offtake of iron ore. The approximate reduction in mineral production will be about 9 lakh tonnes of which 8 lakh tonnes is likely to be in respect of iron ore. To improve the iron ore marketing, diversification of market, formulation of plans for expansion of port capacity to accommodate large sized vessels at Paradip port, tying up export sales through long term agreement with major buyers of iron ore are some of the steps contemplated.

Information in respect of Bihar is being collected and shall be laid on the Table of the House.

History of Modern India by Indian Council of Historical Research

2473. SHRI K. RAMAMURTHY : Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether only one volume of history of modern India has been brought out so far and the second volume has been withheld since the starting of "Towards Freedom" project of the Indian Council of Historical Research in 1974-75 ;

(b) the number of volumes of history of modern India yet to be brought out and the reasons for withholding the second volume ; and

(c) the steps being taken to complete this project within a stipulated period ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF EDUCATION AND CULTURE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI L.P. SHAHI) : (a) Yes, Sir. The first volume of "Towards Freedom" project has been brought out. The second volume is under scrutiny of the Indian Council of Historical Research (ICHR).

(b) Nine more volumes under the "Towards Freedom" project are yet to be brought out. The manuscript of the second volume is under scrutiny of ICHR.

(c) The Indian Council of Historical Research has appointed individual editors for each of the eight volumes to complete the Project by the 31st of March 1992.

Road Accidents

2474. SHRI VIJAY N. PATIL : Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state :

(a) whether accident rate on Indian road network is three times higher than that of any other developing country ; and

(b) the number of road accidents during 1986-87 and 1987-88 on Indian road network and the number of persons killed and injured therein ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI RAJESH PILOT) : (a) The rate of road accidents per 1000 vehicles in India has been 22.8 for 1985 and 20.53 for 1986. Comparative data in respect of other developing countries is not available.

(b) The road accidents, persons killed and persons injured during 1985 and 1986 are as under :