

Integrated Education for Blinds

4546. SHRI S. B. SIDNAL:
SHRI T. V. CHAN-
DRASHEKHARAPPA:

Will the Minister of WELFARE be pleased to state: Will the Minister of WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether only 5 per cent of blind children in the country go to school;

(b) if so, whether integrated education has not made much headway in regard to the education of blind children;

(c) whether Government propose to introduce any law for the welfare of the blind; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF WELFARE (SHRIMATI SUMATI ORAON):
(a) No, Sir. Although accurate figures are not available as to the exact number of blind school going children in the country, it is estimated that 15% of blind children go to school.

(b) The coverage under the Centrally Sponsored Scheme of Integrated Education for the Disabled Children, being administered by Department of Education, has increased from about 7000 in 1984-85 to about 20,000 in 1988-89, which includes about 3000 blind children. Efforts are being made to increase the coverage.

(c) and (d). Government had set up a Committee under Shri Baharul Islam, M.P., to suggest comprehensive legislation for all categories of the handicapped, including the blind. The report of the Committee is under consideration of the Government in consultation with various concerned Ministries.

Purchase of HDW Submarines

4547. SHRI SYED SHAHABUDDIN:
Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) the results of the inquiries ordered by the Government in the purchase of HDW submarines from the FRG.

(b) the total number of HDW submarines purchased so far with the dates of delivery and the ex-yard price paid; and

(c) the number of HDW submarines on order with the expected date of delivery and the ex-yard price agreed upon?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI K.C. PANT): (a) No irregularities could be detected

(b) and (c). Two ready-built SSK submarines were acquired from M/s HDW of West Germany in 1986. Two more submarines of the same class are under construction at the Mazagon Dock Ltd., Bombay from material packages procured from M/s HDW. No other submarines are on order from M/s HDW.

Self-Propelled Gun

4548. SHRI JITENDRASINGH: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Indian Artillery Regiment possesses the self-propelled gun which is available with the army of a neighbouring country; and

(b) if not, the reaction of the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF DEFENCE PRODUCTION AND SUPPLIES IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI CHINTAMANI PANI-

GRAHI): (a) and (b). Indian Artillery Regiments are already equipped with self-propelled guns of certain calibres. The indigenous development of a larger calibre self-propelled gun has already been taken up by the Defence Research & Development Organisation.

Nuclear power Plant in Kerala

4549. SHRI K.P. UNNIKRISHNAN: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to set up a nuclear power plant in Kerala; and

(b) if so, the capacity of the plant and details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF OCEAN DEVELOPMENT, ATOMIC ENERGY, ELECTRONICS AND SPACE (SHRI K.R. NARAYANAN): (a) and (b). There is no proposal to set up a nuclear power plant in Kerala in the near future. However, irrespective of the physical location of the future Atomic Power Stations in the southern region, it is the intention of the Government to ensure that power from such Central Power Stations will be made available to all the States in the region on an equitable basis.

[Translation]

Time-Bound Promotions in Group 'A' of Central Services

4550. PROF. CHANDRA BHANU DEVI: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether I.A.S. officers get early promotion as compared to the officers of Group 'A' Central Services whereas officers of both the categories are recruited on the

basis of the same examinations;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the steps proposed to be taken by the Union Government for time-bound promotions in Group 'A' of Central Services?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) and (b). Promotion prospects in a Service can vary from time to time depending on its Cadre Structure and past recruitments.

(c) There is no concept of time bound promotion in any of the Central Services Group 'A'. However, for the Central Service, Level II and Level I of the Senior Administrative Grade have been merged from 1.1.1986. Number of posts in the Selection Grade of the group 'A' Central Services has been increased, which has improved the promotional prospects.

[English]

Hand Over of Bangalore Airport to National Airport Authority

4551. SHRI V.S. KRISHNA IYER: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether Bangalore Airport is under the Control of Defence; and

(b) if so, whether Government propose to hand over the Bangalore Airport to National Airports Authority of India?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PATIL): (a) Bangalore airport is owned and maintained