

sels in instalments, with or without moratorium, at an interest rate of 8% per annum.

(c) The Shipping Corporation has no preference for any particular source.

(d) Does not arise.

(e) The information is being collected.

(f) Shipping Corporation of India have plans to acquire more ships which would be delivered during 8th Plan. With the acquisition of these ships, Shipping Corporation of India's share in import cargo is expected to increase.

Road Building as an Industry

2446. SHRIMATI BASAVARAJESWARI: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal to recognise road building as an industry to facilitate the entry of the private sector; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI RAJESH PILOT): (a) and (b). Government has already agreed in principle to treat construction, maintenance and development of roads as 'Industrial Concern's and to treat "Highways" as a part of Infrastructure Sector.

[*Translation*]

Sale of apples to consumers at fair price

2447. SHRI BALWANT SINGH RAMOOWALIA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to

take effective measures to make apples available at fair price to the consumers in various parts of the country; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND COOPERATION IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHYAM LAL YADAV): (a) Government of India has no scheme pertaining specifically to the distribution of apples. However, apples can be stored alongwith the Horticulture produce in the cold storage build up under assistance from NCDC or under the scheme 'Building up of Rural Godowns in Rural Areas'.

(b) Does not arise.

[*English*]

Satellite Imageries and Desalination Plants

2448. SHRI SRIKANTHA DATTA NARASIMAHARAJA WADIYAR: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state the progress with regard to the programme of setting up of Satellite imageries and Desalination plants during the Seventh Five Year Plan so far?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY): Under the National Drinking Water Mission ground water potential maps have already been completed with the help of Satellite Imageries for all the 55 Mini Mission Project areas/districts selected under the Programme. The work for preparation of similar maps for the districts covered under Desert Development Programme (DDP) and Drought Prone Area Programme (DPAP) is in progress and expected to be completed by March, 1990.

As regards progress in setting up of 128 Desalination Plants under the National Drinking Water Mission for the areas affected with brackishness, orders for 109 plants have already been placed with the various firms for supply of these plants in 8 affected States/UTs. The plants will be set up between the period August, 1989 to March, 1990.

Protection of Taj from Atmospheric Pollution

2449. SHRI BANWARI LAL PUROHIT: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether due to atmospheric pollution by gases such as Sulphur Dioxide, Nitrogen oxide, etc. the Taj Mahal is being damaged; and

(b) if so, the steps taken or proposed to be taken by Government to preserve this prestigious monument from atmospheric pollution?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF CULTURE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI KRISHNA SAHI):
(a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise. The ambient air in respect of sulphur-dioxide and other pollutants, as well as, other meteorological data is continuously being monitored and remedial measures taken.

Implementation of Elementary Education Programme

2450. SHRI BANWARI LAL PUROHIT:
SHRI MOHANBHAI PATEL:
SHRI AMARSINH RATHAWA:

Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Union Government have called for concerted efforts to speed up the implementation of the programme of elementary education in the country;

(b) if so, the details of the steps taken in this regard; and

(c) the steps taken to boost adult literacy plans particularly in adivasi areas and educationally backward States?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI P. SHIV SHANKER): (a) and (b). The National Policy on Education, 1986 has resolved that "It shall be ensured that all children who attain the age of about 11 years by 1990 will have five years of schooling or its equivalent through the non-formal stream. Likewise, by 1995 all children will be provided free and compulsory education upto 14 years of age."

The Programme of Action formulated with reference to the National Policy on Education has laid down several strategies in pursuit of this objective, such as the opening of new schools in schoolless habitations, the adoption of child-centred and activity-based process of learning, mobilisation of the community and participative management of education, apart from an array of meticulously formulated strategies based on micro-planning to bring children to school.

The Central Government has launched several programmes to support the States for facilitating faster achievement of the goal of universalisation of elementary education. They are Operation Blackboard, Revised Scheme of Non-formal Education and Scheme of Teacher Education. The Scheme of Operation Blackboard seeks to bring about a qualitative improvement in all primary schools in the country by provision of all weather buildings, sufficient instructional materials and at least two teachers. The Scheme of Non-Formal Education has been