

Opening of Educational Institutions in Backward Areas

741. SHRI JAI NARAIN: Will the Minister of EDUCATION be pleased to state:

(a) what special steps Government have taken so far to open educational institutions in the backward areas in the country; and

(b) the details in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF EDUCATION AND HEALTH AND SOCIAL WELFARE (SHRI B. SHANKARANAND):

(a) and (b). It is the objective of the Government to provide primary and middle schools within walking distance of the pupil. According to 3rd Educational Survey conducted in 1973, 90 per cent of the rural population have schools within a walking distance of one kilometre. Similarly 72 per cent of the population in rural areas have middle school within three kilometres. The Fourth Educational Survey has been undertaken in 1978 to determine the habitations which are still in requirement of schools within walking distance. The States have been advised to provide schools within walking distance of the students based on findings of the survey. While doing so they have also been advised to give priority to the needs of the tribal, hilly and backward areas. The States in their annual plans make efforts to provide these within the resources made available to them. It is hoped that within the next Five Year Plan period non-availability of facilities for elementary education in rural and backward areas may cease to be a problem. A Rs. 25 crores Centrally sponsored scheme has also been launched for supporting States' efforts for imparting non-formal education to the children in the age group 9-14 in the 9 educationally backward States (Andhra Pradesh, Assam, Bihar, Jammu & Kashmir, Madhya Pradesh, Orissa, Rajasthan, Uttar Pradesh and

West Bengal). This programme is intended to benefit children of mainly the backward sections of population. States with large tribal population have tribal sub-plans in education which provide for increasing educational facilities for the tribal population in the tribal areas so as to bring them at par with others. At the level of secondary education, the States have been advised that new facilities need be provided only in backward areas and for under-privileged sections. The University Grants Commission supports the establishment of new higher educational institutions only in the case of identified backward areas after proper survey of the existing facilities by the State Governments.

Bills for un-metered Water connections in the Municipal Area of Delhi

742. SHRI T. S. NEGI: Will the Minister of WORKS AND HOUSING be pleased to state:

(a) whether the water bills served in February, 1980 for 1979-80 by the Municipal Corporation of Delhi for un-metered water connections are not @ 5 per cent of rateable value;

(b) whether the charges upto 31st March, 1979 shown as arrears in the said bills are at flat rate which have been declared illegal by the Court;

(c) whether the over payments already made by the consumers have not been adjusted;

(d) under what Section of M.C.D. Act the flat rate charges of Rs. 90/- for the year 1979-80 have been demanded in the said bills; and

(e) whether the consumers of un-metered water connections are being served notices for installation of water meters when Section 115 of M.C.D. Act allows un-metered water connections and under what authority this facility provided under the M.C.D. Act is being withdrawn?