

country. It has tentatively been proposed that all manual exchanges be converted to automatic working by 1990.

(b) Due to limited indigenous production of switching equipment and certain techno-economic constraints in importing equipment for smaller exchanges it has not been possible to draw up a detailed exchange-wise automatization programme yet. Indigenous production is being augmented and it is hoped that it will be possible to take up automatization in a phased manner by 1990.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) and (e).—Occasionally mismatch does occur between availability of equipment and buildings. In all such cases all efforts are made to use the available resources to the best advantage.

#### **New Education Policy and Re-Structure U. G. C.**

4664. SHRI XAVIER ARAKAL: Will the Minister of EDUCATION AND SOCIAL WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government plan to formulate new education policy and re-structure the University Grants Commission in form and function; and

(b) whether it is a fact that more amount is spent on higher academic education in urban areas than primary and vocational education in rural areas?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EDUCATION AND SOCIAL WELFARE (SHRIMATI SHEILA KAUL): (a) Presently the Government has no plan to formulate a new education policy. There have been suggestions for re-organising U. G. C., but no decision has been taken so far.

(b) According to the information available, which is for the combined urban and rural areas, the percentage of budgeted expenditure on primary education was 47.6 as against 12.9 in

respect of university and higher education in 1980-81.

#### **Report of Technical Committee on utilising of waters of West Flowing Rivers**

4665. SHRI K. T. KOSALRAM: Will the Minister of IRRIGATION be pleased to state:

(a) the number of sittings held by the Technical Committee constituted for the purpose of utilising the waters of West-flowing rivers through the State of Kerala into Arabian Sea; and

(b) by what time this Technical Committee is likely to submit its report?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF IRRIGATION (SHRI Z. R. ANSARI): (a) Ten meetings of the Technical Committee to examine the feasibility of eastward diversion of West flowing rivers of Kerala and Karnataka have so far been held.

(b) The interim report of the Committee is under finalisation and is likely to be submitted to the Government soon.

#### **Decontrol of Sugar**

4666. SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Chairman of the Indian Sugar Mill Owners Association has demanded either full decontrol or sugar or reduction of the levy from 65 per cent to 50 per cent;

(b) if so, Government's reaction thereto; and

(c) whether in view of increase in population and in sugar production the levy will be increased from 65 per cent to a higher figure?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND RURAL RECONSTRUCTION (SHRI R. V. SWAMINATHAN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) After careful consideration of the sugar situation, particularly with reference to continuity and stability,