

Indo-Bangladesh joint economic commission

160. SHRI CHITTA BASU: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have decided to set up a joint economic commission with Bangladesh; and

(b) if so, what specific steps have since been taken in that direction?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI P. V. NARASIMHA RAO): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) It is expected that the two Governments will shortly decide upon its composition, the frequency of its meetings and the scope of its activity in the near future.

Non-availability of Bengali Text Books in Andaman and Nicobar Islands

161. PROF. RUPCHAND PAL: Will the Minister of EDUCATION AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the problems faced by students of Bengali medium schools in Andaman and Nicobar Islands owing to non-availability of text books in Bengali;

(b) if so, what steps Government propose to take to solve the problem; and

(c) whether it is a fact that Central Board of Secondary Education, New Delhi publishes text books only in Hindi and English?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRIES OF EDUCATION AND CULTURE AND SOCIAL WELFARE (SHRI P. K. THUNGON): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) According to information furnished by the Andaman and Nicobar Administration, Bengali text books have already been supplied in lower classes. The Directorate of Education, Andaman and Nicobar Administration,

has arranged translation of NCERT text books of Social Sciences in Bengali for classes VI to VIII and these books are under print and would be made available to the students during the current session. However, it was not been possible to take up translation/publication of text books in Bengali for classes IX to XII as the number of students offering Bengali medium is small and the staff inadequate. To overcome this difficulty, the teachers dictate notes in Bengali and in other languages with the aid of text books available in English and Hindi.

(c) The Central Board of Secondary Education allows only English and Hindi as the medium of instruction in its All-India Secondary/Senior Secondary Scheme. As such, the books are prescribed only in English and Hindi medium.

Amount Spent on National Adult Education programme in 1981-82

162. PROF RUPCHAND PAL: Will the Minister of EDUCATION AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) how much amount was spent during 1981-82 for National Adult Education Programme; and

(b) whether there is any cell to monitor the progress of the above programme?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRIES OF EDUCATION AND CULTURE AND SOCIAL WELFARE (SHRIMATI SHEILA KAUL):

(a) An amount of Rs. 10.23 crores was incurred by the Central Government during 1981-82 apart from the expenditure incurred by State/Union Territories Administrations out of their own budget.

(b) Yes, Sir.