

Promotion of students up to Class VIII

3903. SHRI BASUDEB ACHARIA:

SHRI SUDHIR GIRI:

SHRIMATI MADHURI
SINGH:

SHRI K. MALLANNA:

SHRI N. E. HORO:

SHRI NARAIN CHAND
PARASHAR:

SHRI G. NARSIMHA REDDY:

Will the Minister of EDUCATION AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that an instruction has been sent to State Government not to detain students up to class VIII; and

(b) if so, the reasons thereof?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRIES OF EDUCATION AND CULTURE AND SOCIAL WELFARE (SHRI P. K. THUNGON): (a) and (b). Detention based on one-time annual examination was not considered to be academically sound. The States/UTs were, therefore, advised to follow a policy of 'no detention' up to class VIII. However, in order to ensure maintenance of standards, they were advised simultaneously to introduce a system of continuous tests and evaluation and remedial teaching. This advice was given as part of a series of measures suggested for reducing high drop-out rates at the elementary stage.

Improving the operational result of Shipping Corporation of India

3904. SHRI R. P. DAS: Will the Minister of SHIPPING AND TRANSPORT be pleased to state what effective steps have so far been taken for improving the operational results of the Shipping Corporation of India so far as the passenger and coastal services of the Shipping Corporation of India are concerned?

THE MINISTER OF SHIPPING AND TRANSPORT (SHRI C. M. STEPHEN): The Shipping Corporation of India have taken the following effective steps for improving the operational results so far as their passenger and coastal services are concerned:—

(i) Rationalisation of sailings.

(ii) Adequate publicity in the press and various magazines regarding the passengers services and also high-lighting the amenities available on the Board of the vessels.

(iii) Increase in the Port stay of vessels by one day at both ends in order to load and discharge more essential cargoes to get more earnings.

(iv) Slow steaming of vessels to economic on Fuel Costs.

(v) Increasing the carrying capacity of T.S.S. Ramanujan from 812 passengers to 1100 passengers which would bring additional passage earnings on Rameshwaram/Talaimennar Service.

(vi) Introduction of concessional Tickets on Madras/Straits to attract more passengers.

(vii) Introduction of Banker-surcharge on passage fares and freight rates on Madras/Straits sector.

Making reference to Kashmir in U.N.O. by Pak Foreign Minister

3905. SHRI B. V. DESAI:

KUMARI PUSHPA DEVI
SINGH:SHRI NAWAL KISHORE
SHARMA:

SHRI H. N. NANJE GOWDA:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Pakistan repeated its hardy annal of referring to the so-called Kashmir dispute at the United Nations when its Foreign

Minister addressed the General Assembly recently;

(b) if so, is it also a fact that the raising of Kashmir issue once again at the international forum is against the spirit of Simla Agreement; and

(c) if so, whether Union Government have already conveyed its displeasure to the Pakistan Government?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI A. A. RAHIM): (a) Yes, Sir. In his speech to the U.N. General Assembly on October 4, 1982, the Foreign Minister of Pakistan again referred to Kashmir but avoided mention of both the UN resolutions and the Simla Agreement.

(b) and (c). Government's position is that reference to Kashmir in the U.N. and other International forums is contrary to the Simla Agreement. This has been conveyed to Pakistan on different occasions.

Steps to end begging by children below 12 years in public places

3906. SHRI RASABEHARI BEHERA: Will the Minister of SOCIAL WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the action taken during the last two years in connection with the effective implementation of scheme prohibiting begging by children below 12 years in public places in Union territories; and

(b) details of the steps taken to check the spread of child begging?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRIES OF EDUCATION AND CULTURE AND SOCIAL WELFARE (SHRI P. K. THUNGON): (a) and (b). Begging by children is prohibited under the Children Act, 1960, which extends to the Union Territories. The responsibility for the implementation of the Children Act rests with the Union Territory

Administrations. The U.T. Administrations are being pursued for effective enforcement of the Act. The Children Act provides *inter-alia*, for the care, protection and rehabilitation of children rescued from begging. Anti-beggary laws also contain specific provisions for child beggars to be dealt with under the Children Act.

Amongst the Union Territories, Delhi is one Union Territory, where the problem is concentrated because of inflow of beggars from other States in India. Accordingly, some steps have been taken especially in Delhi e.g. (i) Efforts are being made to enforce the Bombay Prevention of Begging Act, 1959, (as extended to Delhi) more effectively (ii) Two additional Beggar Homes and one Home for leprosy affected beggars have been sanctioned for Delhi (iii) A study on "Beggary" in Delhi has been completed by National Institute of Social Defence to provide for a better understanding of the problem.

Widening of Cuttack-Bhubaneswar Road

3907. SHRI MANMOHAN TUDU: Will the Minister of SHIPPING AND TRANSPORT be pleased to state the progress made so far in implementing the proposal for widening of the Cuttack-Bhubaneswar section of National Highway No. 5?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING AND TRANSPORT (SHRI SITA RAM KESARI): A provision of Rs. 3 crores has been made in the 1980-85 Plan for widening selected portions of this section including acquisition of land for the purpose. Alignment proposals have now been finalised. The State Government have now sent a rough cost estimate amounting to Rs. 29.482 crores. The quantum of sanctions in the Sixth Plan would depend on the overall availability of resources.