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|---|-----------|
| (b) Total number of students in these schools. | 4,26,408 |
| Total number of staff employed. | .. 16,196 |

Children's Book Trust

4144. Shri D. C. Sharma: Will the Minister of Education be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Children's Book Trust has submitted any report since it was established; and

(b) if so, whether a copy thereof will be laid on the Table?

The Minister of Education (Dr. K. L. Shrimali): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The latest report for the period ending 31-3-1961 is as follows:—

Manuscripts for about 8 books are ready and have been illustrated. The Trust's proposal and plan to construct a five storey building on the plot of land allotted to it on the Mathura Road have been accepted by the Municipal Corporation of Delhi. Approval for the same has been obtained from the Land and Development Officer also.

The construction work has started and it is hoped that the building will be completed towards the end of 1962.

Part of the press unit has been obtained and will be installed in the premises on the Mathura Road in due course.

Fresh additions are being made from time to time to the international library which the Trust maintains. The library is being made use of by the Trust's illustrators and text writers of children's books.

Reorganisation of Himachal Pradesh Administration

4145. Shri Daljit Singh: Will the Minister of Home Affairs be pleased to state:

(a) the names of departments reorganised in Himachal Administration; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

The Minister of State in the Ministry of Home Affairs (Shri Datar): (a) and (b). Information is given in the statement laid on the Table. [See Appendix VI, annexure No. 35].

Free and Compulsory Education in Punjab

4146. Shri Daljit Singh: Will the Minister of Education be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Punjab Government have carried out compulsory primary education and free education upto Matric standard; and

(b) if so, what amount has been approved for Punjab Government in this regard?

The Minister of Education (Dr. K. L. Shrimali): (a) The Punjab Primary Education Act, 1960 provides that Education at the Primary stage is to be compulsory and free. Precise information is not available yet regarding free education upto Matric standard.

(b) In the Third Five Year Plan of the Government of Punjab a sum of Rs. 720.96 lakhs has been proposed to be provided for schemes in the elementary education sector.

Hostels for Girl Students in Punjab

4147. Shri Daljit Singh: Will the Minister of Education be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Punjab Government have applied for financial assistance for construction of hostels for middle and secondary schools for girls in the State during 1960-61 and 1961-62; and

(b) if so, the amount approved and given so far?

The Minister of Education (Dr. K. L. Shrimali): (a) Yes Sir, for 1960-61 as they were asked to submit applications only for that year.