

The 10+2 system of school education was recommended inter-alia with the objectives of having a broadly uniform structure throughout the country. However, it is for the Boards of Secondary Education of the States/Union Territories to frame and prescribe syllabi, textbooks, etc., at the school stage. The National Council of Educational Research and Training has been extending academic support by making available model curricula, syllabi and textbooks which the State/Union Territory Education Boards may adopt/adapt according to their requirements.

So far as the stage +3 is concerned, the University Grants Commission has circulated to the Universities guidelines for the reorganisation of the courses at the +3 stage. The purpose is to give a good foundation to every under-graduate student in four important areas, viz.

- (i) foundation courses,
- (ii) core programmes,
- (iii) applied studies/projects, and
- (iv) extension programmes.

Raising of Foreign Loans for Financing Railways

1941. SHRI CHITTA BASU : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have under consideration any proposal to allow the Railways to raise foreign loans in an effort to prop up the sagging finances of the railways ;

(b) if so, what are the specific proposals in this respect ; and

(c) by when the Government propose to take a final decision in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI A.B.A. GHANI KHAN CHAUDHURI) : (a) to (c) As of present, there are no specific proposals for raising foreign commercial loans to meet the fund requirements of the Railways. Allocations of resources to the Railways are made through the Annual Plans and Annual Budgets.

Foreign loans and credits as secured for the Railway Sector by the Government of India, Ministry of Finance, do not automati-

cally allow additional rupee resources to the Railways as all allocations are regulated as per Planning Commission's allotment from time to time.

Decision regarding the rate of interest on the Re-Scheduled Loans by Shipping Companies

1942. SHRI K. RAMAMURTHY : Will the Minister of SHIPPING AND TRANSPORT be pleased to state the reasons for not deciding the rate of interest on the re-scheduled loans by the Shipping Companies ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING AND TRANSPORT (SHRI Z.R. ANSARI) : Government have already decided that interest on the re-scheduled amounts due to the Shipping Development Fund Committee in 1982-83 will be charged at the rate of 7.5% per annum.

Plan to develop four more Regional Eye Institutes

1943. SHRI BHUBANESWAR BHUYAN : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government are planning to develop in 1983-84, four more Regional Eye Institutes for controlling blindness along with the medical colleges of different States ; and

(b) if so, whether Gauhati Medical College in Assam has been identified for one of the four Regional Eye Institutes and if not, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI MOHSINA KIDWAI) : (a) and (b) The National Programme for the Control of Blindness provides for the establishment of 6 Regional Institutes of Ophthalmology. Four of these Institutes have already been established. The setting up of two more Institutes is being expedited. There are proposals to set up a few more Regional Institutes of Ophthalmology during the remaining period of the Sixth Five Year Plan, provided adequate resources are available. Should these proposals materialise, the requirements of the North-Eastern Region will be kept in view.