

Representation regarding availability of facilities at New Delhi Railway station

3141. SHRI J.S. PATIL : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether he received representation dated 23 June, 1983 from persons of Thane, Maharashtra, regarding facilities available to tourists/visitors at New Delhi railway station and some other suggestions ;

(b) if so, the suggestions made in the representation and action taken/being taken by the authorities thereon ?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI A.B.A. GHANI KHAN CHAUDHURI) : (a) Yes.

(b) The suggestions relate to provision of adequate toilet/bath facilities, ceiling fans, lights and water, security arrangements, telephone booths and retiring room at the platform where bogies allotted to tourists etc. are berthed at New Delhi, and improved communication and shunting arrangements at some intermediate stations. The suggestions are being examined and will be implemented to the extent found justified and feasible.

Open Learning System

3142. SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE:
SHRI SURAJ BHAN :

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

(a) whether it is a fact that the National Conference on Open Learning System organised by Central Board of Secondary Education on May 27.29 this year had recommended to the Government 'Open Learning System complimenting the formal system, for achieving education for all by 1990 and had asked the Ministry to set up a planning group to study its feasibility, and if found suitable, prepare an infrastructure at the national level;

(b) if so, details of their proposals and recommendations and Government's response thereto; and

(c) what specific concept about open learning system has been suggested ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRIES OF EDUCATION AND CULTURE AND SOCIAL WELFARE (SHRI P.K. THUNGON) : (a) and (b) Yes Sir. A National Conference on Open Learning System was organised by the Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE) at New Delhi during 27-29 May 1983. The following recommendations were made at the Conference :

- (i) In the context of the national commitment of Education for All and the target date of 1990 for universalization of elementary education, Open Learning must be viewed and accepted as an effective alternate channel of education, complementing the formal system and must be made available to learners of various age levels from primary, secondary, tertiary or adult sectors, This will make education life-long and distribute it in time and place.
- (ii) Since 70% of the girls either remain out of the system or are drop-outs from the system and since women contribute so critically to progress (or otherwise) as transmitters of culture and values, special efforts must be made to cater to the learning needs of girls and women.
- (iii) Education being primarily the responsibility of the States, each State must find ways and means to make Open Learning an effective supplement to the formal system.
- (iv) To make learning more effective, it is proposed that a multimedia approach may be adopted. Radio already covers all parts of the country. Satellite television will soon become available at the national level. It is recommended that both educational television and radio be made use of to increase substantially the number of learners and to reach them in out-of-the-way places and in the remote corners of the country, particularly the disadvantaged sections of society.

- (v) Since courses leading to certification have much demand, it is recommended that where certification courses are offered through Open Schools, the certifying agency, in the initial stages, be the same which issues certificates under the formal system. In addition, Open Schools should also offer courses for skill and life enrichment.
- (vi) It is also found that it is essential to build linkages or bridges between the formal and nonformal or open education so that entry and re-entry both horizontally and vertically are possible, thus paving the way for the evolution of an effective learning system rather than keeping each system behind walls and barriers.
- (vii) To provide support, facilitation, coordination as well as to perform clearing house functions, it is found that the involvement of the Centre is necessary. It is recommended that the Ministry of Education, at the Centre, Set up a planning group to study the feasibility of Open Schooling as an alternate approach and, if found necessary, institute a suitable structure, at the national level, to promote it.
- (viii) The Centre should encourage the states to start Open Schools during the present Plan period, if possible, and in a bigger way, in the coming Plan period. In the initial stages, and while this system of learning is being developed, Central financial assistance will be most desirable.

The recommendations, when formally received from Central Board of Secondary Education, will be examined for such action as may be immediately possible. The other aspects will be taken into account while formulating proposals for the VII Plan.

(c) There was a general consensus at the Conference about the concept of Open Learning System consisting of the following elements :

- (i) There should not be any rigid prescription of combination of subjects. A learner should have a choice to select the required number of subjects from the list of subjects offered to him.
- (ii) There should not be any compulsion on the learner to take examination in all the subjects simultaneously. A learner should be free to accumulate credits in parts (subject by subject) if he so wishes.
- (iii) There should be minimal entry requirements with respect to age and educational qualifications.
- (iv) The Open Education should gradually use multi-media approach in instructional system.

Education on concurrent list

3143. PROF. NARAIN CHAND PARASHAR : Will the Minister of EDUCATION AND CULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Central Government have assumed any new responsibilities after the inclusion of 'Education' in the Concurrent list w.e.f January, 1977 ;

(b) if so a resume of the new responsibilities undertaken or measures adopted after this important constitutional change and the impact thereof in the academic field;

(c) if not, whether any steps/measures are under contemplation keeping in view this change ; and

(d) if so, the nature thereof and if not, the reasons therefor ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRIES OF EDUCATION AND CULTURE AND SOCIAL WELFARE (SHRI P. K. THUNGON) : (a) to (d) It is the considered view of the Government of India that additional power vested in it consequent upon placing of education in the Concurrent List of the Constitution may not be used in a way which would abridge or detract from the basic responsibility of the States in the sphere of education and may only be invoked in order to provide correc-