

The percentage of literacy among Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes separately, as per 1971 Census is not at present available. According to the Census of 1961, the percentage of literacy was as follows :-

Scheduled Castes : 10.27%

Scheduled Tribes : 8.54%

(b) Literacy is promoted mainly through two programmes :

(1) spread of primary education and

(2) promotion of literacy among adults.

In so far as primary education is concerned, we have been able to enrol about 80% of the children in the age-group 6-11. By the end of the Fourth Plan, this proportion is expected to rise to 87%.

In the Fourth Five-Year Plan, emphasis is being laid on two programmes :

(1) Special efforts to enrol non-attending children which mostly consist of girls, children of the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes and children of economically handicapped social groups like landless agricultural labourers ;

(2) Reduction of wastage and stagnation which are very high at present.

It is expected that as a result of these two programmes the contribution of primary education to the promotion of literacy would be significantly greater.

In so far as promotion of literacy among adults is concerned, the present allocations in the Fourth Five-Year Plan are very limited, especially in the State sector. The Government of India is,

therefore, considering the launching of a major programme for liquidating illiteracy, whose target will be to make about 10 million adults literate during the remaining period of the Fourth Plan. The scheme is now under active consideration.

Government realise that literacy among the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes is low and special efforts are, therefore, being made to promote primary education as well as adult literacy among those groups. In so far as primary education is concerned, the special incentives extended to children of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes include free supply of books, stationery, mid-day meals and even clothing to a fair proportion of students. For the children of the Scheduled Tribes, there is a special scheme of Ashram schools which provide residential accommodation and education. In so far as adult literacy work is concerned, programme of literacy classes for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes are given a priority.

Financial position of Delhi Transport Undertaking during 1970-71

779. SHRI M. RAM GOPAL REDDY : Will the Minister of SHIPPING AND TRANSPORT (NAUWAHAN AUR PARIWAHAN MANTRI) be pleased to state :

(a) what is the profit made or loss incurred by the Delhi Transport Undertaking during 1970-71; and

(b) the measures Government have taken to improve the functioning of the DTU and to make it a profitable concern ?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND SHIPPING & TRANSPORT (SANSADIYA KARYA TATHA NAUWAHAN AUR PARIWAHAN MANTRI) (SHRI RAJ BAHADUR) : (a). According to the provisional figures furnished by the General Manager,

Delhi Transport Undertaking, the Undertaking suffered a loss of Rs. 324.7 lakhs (including Rs. 136.24 lakhs on account of debt charges) during 1970-71.

(b) The D.T.U. is under the Delhi Municipal Corporation. The Government of India have no direct control over the D.T.U. However, the Government advanced loans amounting to Rs. 160 lakhs to the Undertaking during 1969-70 and Rs. 300 lakhs during the year 1970-71. Against the above amounts, orders were placed by the Undertaking for 300 buses, out of which 196 have already been received and are being operated as express services. During the current financial year, a loan of Rs. 24 lakhs has already been sanctioned. Further loans are also proposed to be advanced to the Undertaking for the purchase of buses, as and when payments become due to the suppliers.

A proposal to set up a Road Transport Corporation in Delhi and to transfer to it the functions of the Delhi Transport Undertaking is under Government's consideration.

Vertical merger of companies

780. SHRI R. R. SINGH DEO :
SHRI P. K. DEO :

Will the Minister of COMPANY AFFAIRS (KAMPANI KARYA MANTRI) be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have recently allowed vertical merger of companies;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the reaction of the companies thereto ?

THE MINISTER OF COMPANY AFFAIRS (KAMPANI KARYA MAN-

TRI) (SHRI RAGHUNATHA REDDY) :
(a) and (b). The Central Government has approved only one merger of two subsidiary companies, namely, Warrior (India) Ltd. and Auto Accessories (India) Ltd. with their holding company, Forbes, Forbes Campbell & Co. Ltd. under section 23 of the Monopolies & Restrictive Trade Practices Act, 1969. This merger was not a vertical one in the generally accepted sense. Having regard to the fact that the holding company already had control over the products manufactured by the subsidiaries, the proposed merger was not considered likely to result in any material change in the existing market structure or lessen competition. The scheme of merger was therefore approved as it would result in economy and better use of men, material and industrial capacity.

(c) Government is not aware of any reaction of the companies in the matter. It appears an application had already been made to the High Court for the merger under section 394 of the Companies Act and following the Central Government's approval under section 23 of the Monopolies and Restrictive Trade Practices Act, 1969, as this case attracted the provisions of that Act, the High Court permitted the merger applied for.

Amount advanced by State Bank of India in Andhra Pradesh for agricultural purposes

781. SHRI K. SURYANARAYANA :
Will the Minister of FINANCE (VITTA MANTRI) be pleased to state :

(a) whether the branch of the State Bank of India, Tadepalligudem, Andhra Pradesh had some years back, advanced a few lakh of rupees to "Shri Chintalapati Bapirajha Dharma Samstha Administration Society" Regd. No. 12/66, for agricultural purposes;

(b) if so, the amount given, in which year given, the amount so far collected and the amount still pending;