

(c) whether it would not be possible to enhance suitably the age limit to attract better qualified candidates and afford them at least two chances to compete?

**THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE**  
 (SHRI BANSI LAL): (a).

- |  |                                 |
|--|---------------------------------|
| (i) Minimum age                          | 16 years.                       |
| (ii) Minimum Educational Qualifications. | Higher Secondary or equivalent. |

(b) and (c) As all States have not yet changed over to the new system of education (10+2+3) and as the new system will affect the scheme of examination for entry into the National Defence Academy only after a few years, all the implications of the change, including the feasibility of raising the age-limits, will be examined.

**Completion of Gumati Project in Tripura**

254. SHRI DASARATHA DEB: Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state:

(a) when the Gumati Project in Tripura is likely to be completed and start producing electricity,

(b) the total amount spent so far on this project; and

(c) the expected volume of electricity that may be produced?

**THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF ENERGY (PROF. SIDDHESHWAR PRASAD):** (a) The Gumati Project in Tripura is expected to be completed and start generating power from the second quarter of 1976 subject to the availability of water in the reservoir

(b) Rs 108 crores has been spent upto the end of December, 1975.

(c) 37.7 million un'ts annually

**American Spy Satellite**

255. SHRI BISHWANATH JHUN-JHUNWALA: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether American newspapers have recently published reports that since 1972, American Spy Satellites have been constantly photographing the army movements and compiling photographs of army installations in India;

(b) if so, whether Government have ensured that these informations are not passed on by America to countries who are not friendly to our country;

(c) whether this constitutes a serious setback to our defence preparedness; and

(d) if so, Government's reaction in this regard?

**THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI BANSI LAL):** (a) Government have seen some press reports to this effect.

(b) to (d) It is not within the competence of Government to prevent passing of information. However, in the event of such a likelihood arising appropriate diplomatic and other action will be taken to safeguard our security

**Bengali programme broadcast for the external services of A.I.R**

256. SHRI BISHWANATH JHUN-JHUNWALA Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Bengali programme broadcast from the external services through Delhi 'C' Station of A.I.R. between 4.30 and 5 p.m. has since been stopped; and

(b) if so, the reasons therefor?

**THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI VIDYA CHARAN SHUKLA):** (a) Yes, Sir. Bengali Service from 4-30 to 5 p.m. was broadcast as part of the External Services and not through Delhi 'C'.

(b) It has not been considered necessary to continue the Service. (Setting up of new Sainik Schools)

**257. PROF. NARAIN CHAND PARASHAR:** Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) the names of the places where the State Government proposed the setting up of new Sainik Schools during the last three years;

(b) the names of such places among them, where the schools have started functioning; and

(c) the progress made in each one of the remaining cases?

**THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI J. B. PATNAIK):** (a) to (c) Only the State Government of Himachal Pradesh have proposed the setting up of a Sainik School. We were recently informed by them that the selection of the site was under their consideration.

**Working of Sainik Schools**

**258. PROF. NARAIN CHAND PARASHAR:** Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the High Power Committee set up by the Government to examine and streamline the working of the Sainik Schools in India has since submitted its report;

(b) if so, the date on which the Report was submitted along with the main recommendations of the Report; and

(c) the recommendations which have been accepted by the Government along with those which have since been implemented?

**THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI J. B. PATNAIK):** (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) 29th October, 1975. A statement containing a summary of the main recommendations of the Report is attached.

(c) While a majority of the recommendations of the Committee are under examination and a final decision on them will be taken shortly, two of them relating to admission tests and selection of Principals have been acted upon.

**Statement**

(1) The Sainik Schools should retain their distinctive identity and should be allowed to grow to their full stature within the objectives set for them.

(2) The admission test for selection of the boys should attempt to determine mainly the power of comprehension and recall as well as the retentive capacity of the candidates.

(3) It would be advisable to maintain personal record of each boy along with relevant cumulative progress report. In case there is a screaming at the end of Class VIII, these collective 'end of the term' reports should be helpful in sorting out cases that fail to show normal progress.

(4) There should be a proper emphasis on the careful selection of Principal.

(5) The Headmaster should be selected out of teaching staff on the basis of merit-cum-seniority

(6) At least three officers in the rank of Lt/Capt. and equivalent with requisite qualifications should be brought in on teaching staff.

(7) In the process of recruitment of teachers, graduates from colleges with good reputation are to be preferred. To raise the quality of teachers, there should be, as an incentive, a selection grade constituting 20 per cent of the posts.