

**Eradication of Illiteracy**

**1990. SHRI RAM PRAKASH:** Will the Minister of EDUCATION, SOCIAL WELFARE AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have been urged to adopt a time bound programme for eradication of illiteracy; and

(b) if so, the reaction of the Government thereon?

**THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF EDUCATION AND SOCIAL WELFARE AND IN THE DEPARTMENT OF CULTURE (SHRI ARVIND NETAM):** (a) and (b). Suggestions have been made from time to time for eradication of illiteracy in the country. According to 1971 Census, the number of illiterates in the country (excluding 0-4 age-group) is about 308 lakhs and to make all these persons literates within a limited time requires vast resources. However, Government are conscious of the urgent need for struggle against illiteracy in the country and the formal as well as non-formal education strategies adopted in the Fifth Plan are designed to ultimately achieve this objective. Some of the major long-term measures being taken by the Government to reduce illiteracy are: increase in educational facilities for children in the age-group 6-14; non-formal education for those who are unable to take advantage of full-time schooling facilities; programme of non-formal education for the youth in the age-group 15-25; functional literacy programmes for special groups, such as farmers, tribals, women, urban slum-dwellers; adult education programme for urban workers and follow-up supporting programmes, such as production of literature for neo-literates, setting up of libraries etc. These measures together with the efforts of the State Governments, several voluntary agencies, Nahr Yuvak Kendras, National Service Scheme, etc., are expected to

reduce the extent of illiteracy in the country.

**Financial crisis in Sugar Industry, U.P.**

**1991. SHRI P. GANGADEB:** Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE & IRRIGATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether sugar industry in U.P. has been facing a grave financial crisis during the last quarter;

(b) if so, steps taken by the Government in this regard;

(c) whether sugar magnates had made any suggestions to the U.P. Government; and

(d) if so, broad features thereof?

**THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE & IRRIGATION (SHRI SHAHNAWAZ KHAN):** (a) Yes, Sir. Some sugar factories in U.P. are having difficulty in finding funds to clear off the labour dues, expenses on repairs, arrears of cane price and purchase tax, and other miscellaneous expenses.

(b) A High Level Committee of the Government of U.P. have been reviewing the position of these sugar factories. Nine of these sugar factories were advised by the U.P. Government to raise loans from their bankers immediately, if need be with a Government guarantee, and clear off the cane arrears and undertake immediate repairs to enable commencement of crushing operations for the 1976-77 season well on time.

In addition, the U.P. Government have for the time being postponed collection of purchase tax in the case of the sugar factories in financial difficulties.

(c) and (d). The Sugar Mills and their Association had requested the Government of U.P.—

(i) to grant complete remission of purchase tax for 1974-75 and 1975-76 season;

- (ii) pending order for remission, to defer realisations on the current despatches;
- (iii) to allow time to liquidate cane arrears till bank loans are made available;
- (iv) to furnish guarantees to the scheduled banks for concessional loans to sugar mills for meeting their statutory obligations in respect of cane payment, labour dues, off-season repairs etc.

#### Hailstorm in Punjab

1992 SHRI RAGHUNANDAN LAL BHATIA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND IRRIGATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether some Members of Parliament had approached Centre to render help to the hailstorm victims of Punjab; and

(b) if so, measures taken by the Centre in this regard?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE & IRRIGATION (SHRI PRABHUDAS PATEL): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Consequent upon the acceptance of the recommendations of the Sixth Finance Commission, relief measures are to be financed by the State Governments out of their own resources with the help of the 'margin' money allotted to them by the Commission. Accordingly, it has not been found feasible to provide any Central Assistance to the hailstorm victims of Punjab.

World Bank assistance for drinking water supply for Calcutta

1993 SHRI R. N. BARMAN: Will the Minister of WORKS AND HOUSING be pleased to state:

(a) whether the World Bank authorities recently visited Calcutta

and offered to give assistance to improve drinking water supply in the city of Calcutta; and

(b) if so, the broad outline of the discussions held and whether the offer has been accepted?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WORKS AND HOUSING (SHRI H. K. L. BHAGAT): (a) and (b). A mission from the World Bank visited Calcutta last month and discussed various proposals for urban development including water supply projects for augmentation of the city water supply. No decision has yet been taken on the proposals.

Outlay for Rural Water Supply Scheme

1994 SHRI JAGANNATH MISHRA: Will the Minister of WORKS AND HOUSING be pleased to state:

(a) whether outlay for rural water supply scheme has been reduced during 1976-77; and

(b) if so, the reasons thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WORKS & HOUSING (SHRI H. K. L. BHAGAT): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise

Cashew Corporations in States

1995 SHRI D B CHANDRA GO-WDA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND IRRIGATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Central Government have asked the cashew growing States to boost cashew production by increasing the area of cashew cultivation;

(b) whether Central Government have also suggested to the States to form Cashew Corporations, State-wise; and

(c) if so, the reactions of States thereto?