

Leave Petitions) and 456 Regular Matters (including 32 Special Leave Petitions), either filed against the judgement and order of the High Court of Karnataka or where the State of Karnataka is a party, were pending.

(b) and (c): The Governments of Tamil Nadu, Andhra Pradesh and Karnataka suggested setting up of a bench of the Supreme Court in the respective State capitals of south India. The Governments of Tripura and West Bengal desired establishment of a bench of the Supreme Court at Calcutta. The Law Ministers of the eastern and the north-eastern States adopted a resolution unanimously that it is essential for the Supreme Court to sit at a suitable place in their regions.

Article 130 of the constitution of India provides that the Supreme Court shall sit in Delhi or in such other place or places, as the Chief Justice of India may, with the approval of the President, from time to time, appoint.

The suggestions for establishment of benches of the Supreme Court outside Delhi were referred to the Chief Justice of India. The Registry of the Supreme Court intimated that the suggestions were considered and the same were not agreed to by the Full Court in the meeting presided over by the Chief Justice of India.

Impact of Sanctions on the Power Projects

4739. SHRI A.C. JOS :
DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY :

Will the Minister of POWER be please to state:

(a) whether the American sanctions combined with Mody's downgrading of India's investment rating have severely with the projects in the power sector;

(b) if so, whether there is 18.81 percent foreign Direct Investment flow in the country;

(c) if so, whether the major players, US based companies with the Exim Bank and OPIC have suspended the credit guarantees; and

(d) if so, the steps the Government proposed to take to meet the fate of the power projects?

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI P.R. KUMARAMANGALAM) : (a), (c) and (d): Ongoing projects in the public sector with committed external assistance are not likely to be affected by the sanctions. As regards private sector the government has not perceived any reluctance by the foreign companies in pursuing their proposals on account of the sanctions and downgrading of investment rating.

(b) According to the Economic Survey, 1997-98, the actual inflow of foreign direct investment in proportion to approvals has gone up from about 19% in 1995 to about 21% in 1997 (upto November, 1997).

Cultural Pollution

4740. SHRI CHINTA MOHAN :
PROF. PREM SINGH CHANDUMAJRA :
SHRI G. GANGA REDDY :

Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether the attention of the Government has been drawn towards the newsitem captioned 'Government to stop cultural pollution' appearing in "Pioneer" dated May, 20, 1998;

(b) if so, whether Indian Film Industry, Media and various audio and vedeo cassette industries are trying to pollute the cultural heritage of the country;

(c) if so, the reaction of the Government thereto;

(d) whether the Government have taken any action to check this trend; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING AND MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRIMATI SUSHAMA SWARAJ) :
(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) it is noticed that in some programmes and sequences the duration of sex, violence etc. is excessive, unnecessary and not relevant to the context.

(c) to (e): Government proposes to introduce the Broadcasting Bill in Parliament, which will bring foreign satellite channels within the ambit of Indian laws and regulations so as to regulate their programming. In so far as films are concerned, Central Broad for Film Certification is entrusted with the responsibility for the certification in accordance with guidelines.

Higher Education

4741. DR. SAROJA V. : Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the higher education has become very expensive in the country;

(b) if so, the reaction of the Government thereto; and

(c) the steps the Government propose to take in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT AND MINISTER OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI) : (a) No, Sir. According to the information available, the cost of higher education in India is one of the cheapest in the world. In many Universities, the rate of tuition fee is about Rs. 15-20 per month only.

(b) and (c): Do not arise.

[Translation]

Clearance to Power Equity Projects by States

4742. SHRI PRADEEP KUMAR YADAV :
SHRI VILAS MUTTEMWAR :

Will the Minister of POWER be please to state:

(a) whether the Government have decided to allow the State Governments to clear 100% power equity projects without an FIPB clearance;

(b) if so, the details hereof;

(c) whether the State Governments have cleared a number of power projects involving an investment below Rs. 1,500 crore;

(d) if so, the details thereof, State-wise; and

(e) the time schedule fixed for the completion of these projects?

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI P.R. KUMARAMANGALAM) : (a) to (e): A decision has recently been taken on the basis of which projects for electric generation, transmission and distribution of power produced in hydro electric power plants, coal/lignite based thermal power plants and oil/gas based thermal power plants will be permitted foreign equity participation up to 100% on the automatic approval route, provided the foreign equity in any such project does not exceed Rs. 1500 crores.

Ratio of Students and Teachers in Primary Schools

4743. SHRI RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH : Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the ratio of students and teachers in primary schools in the country, State-wise;

(b) whether the Union Government have formulated any scheme to equalise the number of teachers and students in the primary schools in all the States as per the national average; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT AND MINISTER OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI) : (a) A statement indicating state-wise teacher-pupil ratio in primary schools in 1996-97 is enclosed.

(b) and (c): Under the scheme of Operation Blackboard, post of primary school teachers to convert single teacher schools as on 30-9-1986 into double teacher schools was provided for. Since 1993, a provision for a Third Teacher in primary schools with enrolment more than 100 has been provided. Proposals in this regard have to be prepared by the State Governments and submitted for approval under the scheme.

Statement

Teacher-Pupil Ratio in Primary Schools in 1996-97

States	Teacher-Pupil Ratio
1	2
Andhra Pradesh	53
Arunachal Pradesh	35
Assam	37
Bihar	58
Goa	21
Gujarat	46
Haryana	48
Himachal Pradesh	31
Jammu & Kashmir	30
Karnataka	36
Kerala	30
Madhya Pradesh	43
Maharashtra	37
Manipur	18
Meghalaya	38
Mizoram	23
Nagaland	20
Orissa	36
Punjab	42
Rajasthan	49
Sikkim	15
Tamil Nadu	40