

(f) if so, the details thereof and the steps taken to achieve the aim of free and compulsory education to all upto the age of 14 years in view of Supreme Court's judgement and to encourage non-formal education?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT, MINISTER OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND MINISTER OF DEPARTMENT OF OCEAN DEVELOPMENT (DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The news-item refer to excerpts on different aspects of education from the Public Report on Basic Education in India (PROBE) prepared by an independent group of researches and released in January, 1999.

The preliminary response of the Department to issues raised in the news-item is as follows :

- (i) Attempts to achieve UEE and adult literacy in the country are constrained by the lack of funds.
- (ii) Though all State Governments have exempted children from payment of tuition fees upto upper primary level, parents are required to meet other costs of schooling of children. These are sought to be mitigated by provision of scholarships and incentives such as free textbooks, uniforms, Mid-day Meals etc.
- (iii) The NFE programme is viewed as a supplement to formal schools and not as a substitute.
- (iv) According to the PROBE report the Total Literacy Campaigns, where actively implemented, have enabled millions to read and write. The observation regarding TLCs running out of steam appears to be a reference to the difficulties experienced in some of the North Indian States where number of illiterates is very large.
- (v) The objective of the Mid-day Meals Scheme launched by the Central Government in August, 1995 was to provide hot cooked meals to primary schools children. The expenditure on conversion of foodgrains into hot cooked meals is to be met by States/UTs. However due to non-availability of resources only 6 States/UTs are providing hot cooked meals under the scheme. The remaining States/UTs are distributing foodgrains to eligible children.

(c) According to available information the total plan and non-plan budgeted expenditure on elementary education by Centre and States/UTs

during 1994-95, 1995-96 and 1996-97 was Rs. 12638.94 crores, Rs. 15740.05 crore and Rs. 18285.42 crore respectively.

(d) The PROBE Report motions that Department of Education has estimated that implementing the Fundamental Right to education would require an additional annual expenditure of around 0.5% of India's GNP over the next five years.

(e) Yes, Sir.

(f) The Ninth Plan (1997-2002) outlay for the Department of Education is Rs. 20381.00 crore.

According to the Constitution (Eighty Third Amendment) Bill, 1997 which was introduced in Rajya Sabha on 28 July, 1997. State shall provide free and compulsory education to all children of the age of six to fourteen years of age.

A Centrally Sponsored Scheme of NFE is being implemented since 1987-88 in educationally backward States for providing primary education to out of school children.

[Translation]

Model Villages

191. DR. LAXMINARAYAN PANDEY : Will the Minister of RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state :

(a) the number of villages in Madhya Pradesh and Rajasthan developed as model villages under the centrally sponsored rural sanitation programme; and

(b) the expenditure incurred on this programme during 1998-99?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI BABAGOUA PATIL) : (a) and (b) Sanction has been accorded for the development of three villages in Madhya Pradesh and eight villages in Rajasthan as model villages under the centrally sponsored rural sanitation programme. The State Governments have not reported any expenditure under this scheme during 1998-99.

[English]

Dispensation Admissions in KVs

192. SHRI SHANTILAL PURSHOTTAMDAS PATEL : Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether special dispensation admissions in

Kendriya Vidyalayas decided upon upto August 27, 1998 have since been ordered;

- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT, MINISTER OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND MINISTER OF DEPARTMENT OF OCEAN DEVELOPMENT (DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI) : (a) to (c) The admissions approved by the Committee upto 20.8.98 and for which admission intimations were sent to Vidyalayas by Kendriya Vidyalaya Sangathan before 28.8.98 were ordered for admission considering each case on merit.

Special Task Force

193. DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY :
SHRI RAVI SITARAM NAIK :

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether during the recent meeting of Chief Ministers of Northern States it was decided to set up a special Task Force to evolve a mechanism to check inter-State crimes and tackle the problem being created by terrorists and criminal gang;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Union Government have given directions to various States to establish inter-State agencies and coordinate jointly for tackling the militant activities; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI L.K. ADVANI) : (a) to (d) The Union Home Minister convened a Meeting of the Chief Ministers of Delhi, Punjab, Jammu & Kashmir, Uttar Pradesh, Himachal Pradesh, Haryana and Rajasthan on 14.10.1998 to review the action being taken by these States to curb terrorist activities. The Meeting, among others, recommended setting up of a Special Task Force to evolve and implement an Action Plan to identify and tackle the problems being created by terrorists and criminal gangs for coordinated operations against inter-State criminals, greater coordination of intelligence and strategy, amending of old laws for effective countering of strategies adopted by criminals, and strengthening of State Police forces, etc. Concerned State Governments have been requested to take immediate steps to implement the decisions taken at the meeting.

Assistance for Essential Commodities

194. SHRI P. SANKARAN : Will the Minister of FOOD AND CONSUMER AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to extend financial assistance to State Government for market intervention operation to curtail abnormal price rise in essential commodities;

(b) if so, the amount earmarked for this purpose. State-wise;

(c) whether all the States have removed the restrictions on inter-State movement of essential commodities; and

(d) if not, the steps taken by the Government to remove such restrictions?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD AND CONSUMER AFFAIRS (SHRI SATYAPAL SINGH YADAV) : (a) and (b) A proposal for extending financial assistance on a matching basis to State Governments/UTs for market intervention in respect of perishable essential commodities as a last resort has been formulated. No final decision has been taken so far.

(c) and (d) One of the decisions which emerged in the Chief Ministers Conference held on 27/11/1998 was to remove informal restrictions imposed by the State Governments on inter-State movement of essential commodities. A number of State Governments have removed restrictions on the movement of essential commodities. The Government has requested the remaining State Governments to remove restrictions at the earliest.

Rent Control Tribunal

195. SHRI A.C. JOS : Will the Minister of URBAN AFFAIRS AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Union Government have urged the States and UTs to set up Rent Control Tribunals by suitably amending their respective Rent Acts;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF URBAN AFFAIRS AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI RAM JETHMALANI) : (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. The Ministry of Urban Affairs & Employment has written to the States and UTs to suitably amend their Rent Control Legislations. Model Legislation was communicated to the States/UTs. The Model