

1	2	3	4
Tamilnadu	LPTs :	Pattukottaol Attur Krishnagiri Shankarankovil Valparai	5
Tripura	VLPTs :	Dharmanagar	1
Uttar Pradesh	LPTs :	Ganj Dundwara Kasganj Mau Ranipur Naugarh Auraiya New Tehri Mahoba Athdama Nanpara	9
West Bengal	LPTs :	Farakka Murshidabad (DD2)	2
Andaman & Nicobar Islands (U.T.)	LPT :	Port Blair (DD2)	1
Dadar & Nagar Haveli (U T)	LPT	Silvassa	1
Total			66

T.V. Channel for Education Purposes

*26 SHRIMATI SHEELA GAUTAM
SHRI RAMESHWAR PATIDAR

Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state

(a) the number of children programmes telecast on Doordarshan during the last three years, year-wise.

(b) whether the Government are contemplating to launch a new TV channel exclusively for the purpose of education in order to popularise distance education.

(c) if so, the time by which the said channel is likely to be started.

(d) whether the Government propose to allot one channel to a non-Government agency for this purpose, and

(e) if so, details and the terms and conditions thereof?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI C M IBRAHIM) (a) Information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House

(b) A Working Group on "Rapid Expansion of Open Learning/Distance Education" has been

constituted by the Ministry of Human Resource Development (Deptt. of Education) under the Chairmanship of Education Secretary. The first meeting of the Working Group was held on 29.11.95 wherein it was decided to constitute a sub-Group under the Chairmanship of Shri Bhaskar Chatterjee, Joint Secretary (Adult Education) to look into the various aspects and formalise the requirements for Educational Channel. The sub-Group has since made some recommendations which are under examination.

(c) At this stage, no specific time frame can be indicated for operationalisation of this Channel

(d) No, Sir.

(e) Does not arise

Foreign Private Sector Aeroplanes

*28 SHRI SATYA DEO SINGH Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state

(a) whether the Nepal Government has requested the Government of India to permit the private sector aeroplanes into Indian air territory.

(b) if so, the details thereof, and

(c) the reaction of the Union Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI C M IBRAHIM) (a) and (b) Yes, Sir The Government of Nepal has proposed amendments in the Air Services Agreement to enable designation of additional airlines to operate to India.

(c) To discuss this and other matters of mutual interest, bi-lateral talks between India-Nepal are proposed to be held shortly

Labour Productivity

*29 SHRI NITISH KUMAR
SHRI JAGMOHAN

Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state

(a) whether labour productivity especially agricultural productivity in the country has remained low as compared to the productivity level obtained by other countries.

(b) if so, the details thereof.

(c) the steps taken by the Government to improve the labour productivity in the country, and

(d) the schemes prepared by the Government to provide education and medical facilities to the labourers in the unorganised sector and the

amount sanctioned for the purpose during the current year?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM) : (a) to (d). Asian Productivity Organisation is publishing indices relating to productivity levels and its changes in respect of its member countries. According to the comparative information on productivity levels and changes published in 1995, labour productivity in agriculture in respect of India for the year 1990 was higher than 7 countries and lower than 5 countries. A *statement* indicating the labour productivity indices of member countries of Asian Productivity Organisation for agriculture is enclosed.

Labour management policies are being geared both in the private and public sector so as to improve productivity in the country. These policies include : adoption of modern technology, modern management practices, and training and retraining of workers etc.

Welfare funds to provide medical facilities to Beedi workers, Mine workers and Cine workers have been established. Labour Welfare Organisation is running 12 hospitals (515 beds) and 222 dispensaries including one chest clinic, at different places, to provide health care and family welfare facilities to beedi and mine workers. These institutions have a mobile unit attached to them. A number of health schemes have been drawn up for beedi, mine and cine workers. These include reservation of beds in TB hospitals and financial help for treatment to workers suffering from TB, cancer, mental diseases, leprosy, kidney transplantation, maternity benefit etc.

An amount of Rs 21.9 crores has been provided in the budget from welfare funds for the year 1996-97 towards health schemes.

As regards education, a number of schemes have been prepared by the Government to provide education to the children of the workers in the unorganised sector. These include : scholarships for children of mines, beedi and cine workers studying in Class V and above in recognised institutions, financial assistance for purchase of school uniforms, text books and stationery etc. to the children studying in upto Class IV, assistance for purchase of school buses to the mine managements, assistance to the mine managements for maintenance of libraries and for running central library, grants-in-aid for recognised schools, incentive @ Re 1.00 per day per girl child for promoting better enrolment of girl children of mines, beedi workers and Cine workers etc. The total amount sanctioned for education in the budget for 1996-97 stands at Rs 11.00 crores approximately.

STATEMENT

Comparison of Agricultural Productivity Indices among Asian countries for the year 1990.

1.	Bangladesh	56.16
2.	Republic of China	132.11
3.	Fiji	N.A.
4.	Hong Kong	158.13
5.	India	121.51
6.	Indonesia	102.68
7.	Japan	116.72
8.	Republic of Korea	130.74
9.	Malaysia	N.A.
10.	Nepal	130.15
11.	Pakistan	102.98
12.	Philippines	108.83
13.	Singapore	90.99
14.	Sri Lanka	127.67
15.	Thailand	118.43

Reservation to OBCs in Promotions

*30 SHRI G L KANAUIA Will the Minister of WELFARE be pleased to state

(a) whether the Government are contemplating to provide reservation in promotions to the Government employees belonging to Other Backward Classes,

(b) if so, the details thereof,

(c) if not the reasons therefor,

(d) whether the Government have also received suggestions/requests from certain organisations in this regard,

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) the steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF WELFARE (SHRI BALWANT SINGH RAMOOWALIA) : (a) to (f) Representations have been received from certain organisations for providing reservation in promotions in the Government jobs to OBCs. The issue is under consideration of the Government. The names of the organisations are given in the enclosed *Statement*.

STATEMENT

1. O P Barwadia, State General Secretary, BJP, OBC Cell, Rajasthan, Jaipur
2. General Secretary, BC Employees Welfare Association, Tirupati, Andhra Pradesh