

Child Welfare Centres in Kerala

805. SHRI T. GOVINDAN: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) the number of Child Welfare Centres functioning in Kerala during the Eighth Plan Period;
- (b) whether any foreign assistance is being provided to the State for these Centres; and
- (c) if so, details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI S.R. BOMMAI): (a) There is no central or centrally sponsored scheme under which Child Welfare Centres could be opened. However, for welfare and development of children, 120 Integrated Child Development Services (ICDS) Projects, 656 creches and 181 Balwadi centres were functioning during the end of VIIIth Plan period.

- (b) No, Sir.
- (c) Does not arise.

[*Translation*]

Pay Scale to BHU Professors

806. SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Medical Science professors of Banaras Hindu University are given pay scales equivalent to that of AIIMS, New Delhi and other Post Graduate Institutes;
- (b) if not, the reasons for this disparity;
- (c) whether any representation has been received in this regard; and
- (d) if so, the action being taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI MUHI RAM SAIKIA): (a) to (d) Teachers in the Universities, irrespective of the Faculty to which they might belong are paid salaries in accordance with the Scales of Pay approved by the University Grants Commission.

Rajiv Gandhi Literacy Mission Project

807. SHRI SUSHIL CHANDRA: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) the amount of grants allocated by the Union Government to the Madhya Pradesh Government during the last three years for Adult Education under Rajiv Gandhi Literacy Mission Project;
- (b) the number of persons made literate during the said period and the average cost incurred on making each

person literate;

- (c) the methodology adopted for implementation of this programme in the State;
- (d) whether the performance of literacy programmes as being run in the State has been evaluated; and
- (e) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI MUHI RAM SAIKIA): (a) National Literacy Mission (NLM) does not release grants to Rajiv Gandhi Literacy Mission. Funds are released by NLM for eradication of illiteracy in the age group of 15-35 years directly to Zila Saksharata Samiti (ZSS), which is a society registered under the Chairmanship of District Collector at the District level. The grant released by the NLM for literacy to ZSSs of Madhya Pradesh during the years 1994-95, 95-96 and 96-97 are as under:

Year	Grants released
1994-95	Rs. 25,11,99,010/-
1995-96	Rs. 6,37,00,000/-
1996-97	Rs. 3,81,84,000/-

(b) Upto June, 1997 34,43,450 persons have been made literate. The average cost of making each person literate under Total Literacy Campaign ranges between Rs. 65 to Rs. 100 per learner and for Post Literacy Programmes it ranges from Rs. 40 to Rs. 55 per learner per year.

(c) The literacy campaigns are implemented through Zila Saksharata Samitis (ZSSs) which are registered under the Societies Registration Act as independent and autonomous bodies to provide a unified umbrella under which a number of individuals and organisations work together. The leadership to this body is provided by the District Collector/ Chairperson. All sections of society are given due representation in the planning and implementation of the programme. The approach to literacy campaigns is area specific, time bound, volunteer based and result oriented. The campaign is delivered through volunteers without any expectation of reward and incentive.

(d) and (e) Literacy project in each district is subjected to concurrent and final evaluation through external agencies which are mostly reputed Social Research Institutions, University Departments etc. Final evaluation of a literacy project is taken up when majority of learners have completed all the three literacy primers. The literacy campaigns in the following districts of the State have been evaluated by the external agencies and their findings are as under:

Name of District	Percentage of learners achieving basic literacy norms
1. Ratlam	86.46%
2. Indore	78.90%
3. Narsinghpur	41.00%
4. Bilaspur	74.00%
5. Raipur	82.00%
6. Durg	72.18%

[English]

Chennai and Calcutta Telecom Circle

808. SHRI A. G. S. RAMBABU: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to transfer Chennai and Calcutta telecom circles to the Mahanager Telephone Nigam Ltd. (MTNL);

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA): (a) to (c) No such proposal is under consideration at present. The question of assigning any additional areas to M/S MTNL would, inter-alia, be linked to issues connected with reorganization/corporatisation of the telecom sector, requiring detailed examination and consultation with the various agencies concerned.

Sinking of Cargo Ships in Sea Near Bombay

809. SHRI L. RAMANA: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) wheter a number of cargo ships have mysteriously sank in the sea near Bombay Port in recent times;

(b) if so, the number of ships that sank during the last one and a half year; and

(c) whether any enquiry has been made into the reasons for such a high rate of accident and if so, the findings thereof?

THE MINISTER OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI T. G. VENKATARAMAN): (a) to (c) During the last one and a half years, eight cargo ships have sunk/ grounded-3 within Mumbai Port limits for which the Mumbai Port Trust is carrying out preliminary enquiries. Out of 5 other ships which sank outside the Mumbai Port limits. Directorate General of Shipping, Mumbai has completed preliminary enquiry in 3 cases which indicate that the mishaps happened due to structural failure leading to ingress of water through the shell opening, poor condition of the Vessels and inclement weather conditions. In the other 2 cases, the Directorate is yet to complete the preliminary enquiry.

Postal Week

810. SHRI RAM NAIK: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) the Postal Department observed Postal Week from October 9, 1997;

(b) whether the Government are aware that since that date the postmen in Mumbai observed "Work to Rule" whereby the deliveries of postal articles were delayed;

(c) if so, the grievances of the postmen which prompted them to resort to work to rule; and

(d) the steps taken proposed to be taken by the Government to remove the grievances and to settle the dispute?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) No, Sir. No notice or intimation regarding "Work to Rule" was received by the Maharashtra Postal Circle at the Divisional, Regional or Circle level from any Union/ Staff association. Delivery of mails in Mumbai was normal except in some parts of North-west Postal Division, where there was some accumulation of mails due to heavy receipt of mails during Diwali season.

The Postman in North-West Division had however expressed their grievances about shortage of delivery staff.

(d) The Government has recently sanctioned 125 posts of postman and 12 posts of Sorting Postmen to Mumbai Postal Region. Out of this, 43 posts of Postmen and 4 posts of Sorting Postmen have been allotted to North-West Postal Division.

Tenders invited by Dredging Corporation of India

811. SHRI VIJAY GOEL: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state;

(a) whether on July 19, 1997 tenders were called for from Dredging Corporation of India for 6500 cubic meter hopper capacity trailers suction dredgers;

(b) whether any other company of the world could also take part in the filling of tenders;

(c) whether tender papers were not made available to the Chinese Shipbuilding Trading Company; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI T. G. VENKATARAMAN): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. As this was a Global Tender, any company in the world who meets the prequalification criteria published in the Notice Inviting Tender (NIT) could take part in the filling of tenders.

(c) and (d) Yes, Sir. The offer submitted by M/s Chinese Shipbuilding Trading Company was not found in order as regards to the terms and conditions specified in the Notice Inviting Tender (NIT).