

drawn to the newsitem captioned 'Illegal Statellite Phones Leave Government Poorer' appearing in the Economic Times dated October, 24, 1997;

(b) if so, the facts of the matter reported therein; and

(c) the reaction of the Government thereto?

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

(b) The news item is highly speculative in nature, including the figure of 500 illegal subscribers reported therein. The licence fee payable by the subscriber is Rs. 100 along with Royalty of Rs. 20,000/- and not Rs. 50,000- as reported in the news item.

(c) The use of illegal Mini-M terminals cannot be entirely ruled out because of their very small size. However, restricting the use of Mini-M terminals by individuals is engaging the attention of Government for some time in view of the security implications mentioned in the news item. However to begin with, only Government Departments, Ministers of the Central Government and Chief Ministers of the State Govt. will be permitted to use this facility. The Ministry of Home Affairs and Ministry of Defence have been approached to consider the security implications of satellite phones.

Performance of Literacy Programmes

*67. SHRI BHAKTA CHARAN DAS: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have evaluated the performance of National Literacy Mission and Adult Education Programme being implemented in Orissa and other States;

(b) if so, the details of achievements and deficiencies noticed by the Government in implementation of these programmes; and

(c) the details of steps proposed to be taken to check the deficiencies noticed therein?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI S. R. BOMMAI): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Department of Education had constituted an Expert Group under the Chairmanship of Prof. Arun Ghosh for conducting status-cum-impact Evaluation of the Total Literacy Campaigns in the country. The strengths noted by the Expert Group are as follows:

- It is more of movement than a programme.
- There has been an overwhelming impact on women.
- Total literacy campaigns have led to a positive impact on caste and communal relations.

— The literacy movement has generated a demand for primary education.

— Literacy campaigns have activated concern for developing a just and humane society.

— They have led to sensitization of the bureaucracy.

— The launching of literacy campaigns has placed literacy on the national agenda.

The weaknesses noted are:

— The quality of teaching has suffered in some places where there has been excessive preoccupation with literacy skills alone.

— Fragile literacy skills need to be consolidated through more effective post literacy measures.

— Some campaigns have been launched without adequate preparations.

— Progress of literacy has been rather slow in urban areas.

(c) Some of the steps taken to strengthen and improve literacy programmes are:

— State Government requested to draw up a time bound action plan for bringing uncovered districts under total/post literacy campaigns.

— Measures initiated to increase the motivation of volunteers engaged in literacy campaigns through recognition and appreciation of their efforts.

— Panchayati Raj Institutions being involved more intimately in implementation of literacy campaigns.

— Stress laid on reinforcing linkages between the literacy programme and other development programmes.

— Decentralisation and delegation of authority to State Governments for implementation of literacy programmes by establishment of State Literacy Missions.

— Guidelines laid down by National Literacy Mission to revamp and strengthen monitoring and evaluation mechanisms. State Directorates of Adult Education to closely monitor the literacy programmes by holding monthly monitoring meetings with the Secretaries of Zilla Saksharata Samitis.

— Concurrent evaluation of literacy programmes is being rigorously enforced for identifying shortcomings in the implementation and initiating timely corrective measures.