

Vidyalaya Sangathan in its 62nd meeting held on 27th January, 1997 interalia enhanced the promotion quota from 33 1/3% to 50% for promotion from Primary Teacher to Trained Graduate Teacher and Trained Graduate Teacher to Post Graduate Teacher to provide for more promotional opportunities.

River Valley Projects

3494. SHRI VIJAY PATEL : Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state :

(a) the steps being taken to promote sustainability for river valley projects;

(b) whether the Government have already mooted out any methods to prevent the silting of river beds and so enhance the storage capacity on a need basis;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether the Government are considering the involvement of private enterprises in this respect; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI JANESHWAR MISHRA) : A number of steps have been initiated to promote the sustainability of river valley projects. These include emphasis on adequate operation and maintenance of projects, extension, renovation and modernisation, controlling of siltation of reservoirs through catchment area treatment and dam safety measures.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) With a view to arrest the silting of river beds and consequently that of the storage reservoirs, catchment area treatment is undertaken.

(d) and (e) For examining the feasibility and scope of private sector participation in Irrigation and Multi-Purpose Projects, the Government constituted a high level Committee which submitted its report on 22nd December, 1995. The Committee concluded that while private sector participation is feasible in respect of all irrigation (surface and ground water) and multi-purpose projects, it would be desirable to introduce this on pilot basis for selected projects. A copy of the report has already been sent to all States/Union Territories for necessary action.

Intrusion in Arabian Water

3495. SHRI BANWARI LAL PUROHIT : Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are aware that the Pakistan is intruding into Indian waters in the Arabian Sea; and

(b) if so, the facts thereof and corrective steps Government propose to take in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI I. K. GUJRAL) : (a) and (b) Government have seen reports regarding Pakistan's notification specifying 'baselines' to measure Pakistan's territorial waters, the contiguous zone, the EEZ and continental shelf in the Arabian Sea.

Government have conveyed to Pakistan that while they reserve the right to seek suitable revision of the 'baselines' as notified by Pakistan insofar as they impinge upon India's sovereign jurisdiction, Government unequivocally reject as unacceptable the coordinate point (K) 23 33.90N ... 68 07.80E referred to in the notification as it encroaches upon the territorial waters of India which are within its sovereign jurisdiction.

Racket in Selling Petrol

3496. SHRI SANAT MEHTA :

PROF. AJIT KUMAR MEHTA :

SHRI CHUN CHUN PRASAD YADAV :

SHRI CHHITUBHAI GAMIT :

SHRI SANAT KUMAR MANDAL :

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether attention of Government has been drawn to the news-item captioned "For Cheaper Petrol, contract Government armed Forces drivers" appeared in the 'Hindustan Times' dated January 1, 1997;

(b) if so, whether Government have received complaints about corrupt armed forces drivers racket in selling petrol and other petroleum products meant for official use;

(c) if so, the number of complaints received during the last two years and names of complainant as also quantity of petroleum products involved in the racket;

(d) whether the Government have conducted enquiry in this regard;

(e) if so, the details of the action taken against culprits as also the acts and rules under which action has been taken; and

(f) the mechanism devised or proposed to be devised to curb such activities?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI N.V.N. SOMU) : (a) to (b) The Government are aware of the said news-item.

No specific complaint has been received in this regard. However, during the last two years, one driver (MT) was apprehended in July, 1995 by the Army Headquarters Transport Coy, Delhi. The individual was duly charge-sheeted and punished under Section 63 of the Army Act.

It the Armed Forces, there is a well-established mechanism, prescribing stringent/deterrant measures to safeguard against any pilferage of Government stores,

including petrol and petroleum products which is being enforced strictly. Enquiries made did not reveal existence of any such racket in the Armed Forces, as alleged. However, Service Headquarters have been again instructed to exercise strict vigil in this regard.

Shortage of Life Saving Drugs in AIIMS

3497. SHRIMATI MEIRA KUMAR : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the enquiry conducted consequent to the death of the wife of a resident doctor of AIIMS has revealed inadequacy of equipments and life saving medicines in the casualty department of the institute; and

(b) the remedial measures taken so far in this regard and the result achieved?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI SALEEM IQBAL SHERVANI) : (a) and (b) No, Sir. The enquiry conducted to know the circumstances leading to the death of the patient concluded that the death was due to cardiac arrhythmic, resulting from prehospital circulatory collapse. Subsequently, the Institute constituted two Committees to assess the adequacy of the equipments and the related facilities in the Casualty. Requisite measures to provide facilities in the Casualty were initiated immediately.

[Translation]

Less Quantity of Water in Canal in U.P.

3498. SHRI PANKAJ CHOWDHARY :
SHRI AMAR PAL SINGH :
• SHRI SATYA DEO SINGH :

Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state :

(a) whether owing to release of less quantity of water in the canals in Uttar Pradesh crops of thousand of farmers have been destroyed and they are on the verge of starvation;

(b) if so, whether the Government have taken any action to ensure release of adequate quantity of water in the canals for farmers;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI JANESHWAR MISHRA) : (a) to (d) Depending upon the actual availability of water, varying quantities of water are released through canals from time to time. Information regarding operation of canals is not kept at the Centre.

[English]

Forged Passport

3499. SHRI SUKHLAL KUSHWAHA : Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the identification of some of the deceased, who died recently in an incident occurred in Charkhi-Dadri in Haryana could not be done as their names and passports were forged;

(b) if so, the measures taken by the Government to identify the actual passport holders; and

(c) the action taken against those travel agents who helped them for going abroad on the forged passports?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI I.K. GUJRAL) : (a) The main reason for difficulties in identification of the deceased, who died recently in the mid air collision of Saudi and Kazak Airlines near Charkhi-Dadri in Haryana, was due to severe mutilation/ charring of the bodies of the deceased. However, the possibility of some passengers having travelled on passports which were tampered after being issued by Passport Offices cannot be ruled out.

(b) Lists of those reportedly dead, provided by the immigration authorities, were immediately sent to the concerned Passport Officers for verification of passport particulars. The Passport Officers were also asked to obtain verification from local police authorities. The police authorities in Bihar, Delhi, Maharashtra, Rajasthan and UP are conducting enquiries and reports are awaited.

(c) Action against the errant travel agents, if any, is contingent upon the outcome of the enquiries being made.

World Bank Report on Family Welfare Programmes

3500. DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY :
SHRI YELAIAH NANDI :

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether a World Bank Report published in the Hindustan Times dated 9th September, 1996 has stated three major problems for hampering the successful implementation of the family welfare programme;

(b) if so, whether the Government has examined this Press Report in which the World Bank's observation on India's poor performance of family welfare programme has been mentioned;

(c) if so, whether Government has fully examined the views expressed by the World Bank Report; and

(d) if so, the steps taken to implement them?