

districts of Palamau, Hazaribagh, Deoghar, Aurangabad and Gaya. This scheme has been under implementation since 1981 and so far 570 sq. kms. of area have been treated during the 7th Five Year Plan and it is proposed to treat another 6400 sq. kms. during the 8th Five Year Plan.

In addition, fund is also released to Damodar Valley Corporation for treatment of catchments of river Damodar in the districts of Hazaribagh, Giridih and Dhanbad.

[English]

Repair of brick paths in Government Colonies of the capital

1621. SHRI MADAN LAL KHURANA: Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the brick paths laid in the Government Colonies like R. K. Puram have given way and there is need to relay them properly;

(b) if so, the reasons for not re-laying them or repairing them over the passage of time;

(c) the steps taken to re-lay/repair these paths on priority basis; and

(d) if not, the reasons thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM): (a) to (d) Portions of the brick paths between the main road and scooter garages and the entrance to quarters had been damaged. Some of these have been repaired to the extent of availability of funds and the remaining will also be repaired depending upon the availability of funds.

Conversion of hostels into semi residential schools

1622. DR. VISWANATHAM KANITHI: Will the Minister of WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to convert hostels for Scheduled Castes/Scheduled Tribes into semi-residential schools;

(b) if so, the present guidelines in this regard and the number of such hostels which are proposed to be converted;

(c) whether the standard of education in the hostels is very low; and

(d) if so, the steps proposed to be taken to improve the same?

THE MINISTER OF WELFARE (SHRI SITARAM KESRI): (a) No, Sir.

(b) to (d) Do not arise.

Residential Schools Exclusively for Girls of Coastal and Hilly Areas

1623. DR. VISWANATHAM KANITHI: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCES DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to set up more residential schools exclusively for the girls of families living in coastal and hilly areas, where the standard of education among the females is very low as compared to other areas;

(b) if so, the details of the proposals; and

(c) if not, the reasons thereof?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI ARJUN SINGH): (a) There is no such proposal under consideration of Government.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Opening of residential schools for girls is the concern of the State Governments and UT Administrations.

Discipline in Universities

1624. SHRI ARJUN CHARAN SETHI: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have taken specific steps to preserve discipline in the Universities and colleges in the country to maintain high standard of teaching; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI ARJUN SINGH): (a) and (b) In pursuance NPE-86, the Government & UGC have taken several initiatives to improve the standard of education in institutions of higher learning. Some of the major steps taken in this regard are:

—Revision of pay scales of college and university Teachers w.e.f. 1-1-1986. Opportunities provided for training and career advancement for teachers. All-India Eligibility Test introduced to attract best talent to the teaching profession.

—Academic staff colleges established for re-orientation of newly appointed university and college Teachers.

—27 Curriculum Development Centres in Sciences and Humanities established to modernise curricula. Model curricula has been prepared for 27 disciplines in under-graduate and post-graduate courses.

—Financial assistance provided by UGC for improvement in teaching and research under Special Assistance Programmes, like Centres of Advanced Study, COSIP, COHSSIP, COSIST, etc.

—Inter-University Centres established by UGC to provide front-line facilities and services for advancement of research in the university system.

—Higher priority given to grant of autonomy to selected Colleges and University Departments.

—Guidelines for implementation of an Academic Calendar circulated. These guidelines emphasize observance of at least 180 teaching days by universities/colleges.

—Regulations for minimum standards for the award of first degree, minimum working days etc. notified by UGC.

News Item "Major Indus site Found in Kutch"

1625. DR. A. K. PATEL:

SHRI SHANKERSINGH VAGHELA:

Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether attention of the Government has been drawn to the news-item captioned "Major Indus site found in Kutch" appearing in the Times of India dated February 18, 1991;

(b) if so, the major finds of the Archaeological Survey of India in its aforesaid excavations;

(c) whether any archaeological/historical conclusions have been drawn from these discoveries in the direction of reconstructing ancient Indian history;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) the agency which is doing the excavation and assessment work; and