

(a) whether there is a growing increase in the number of mentally and physically handicapped boys and girls in the country;

(b) if so, the number of such persons, state-wise;

(c) the main factors responsible therefor; and

(d) the steps taken or proposed to be taken for treatment and rehabilitation of such persons?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI SALEEM IQBAL SHERVANI): (a) to (c). No reliable data is available to indicate the trend. However, a survey conducted by National Sample Survey Organisation (NSSO) in 1991 covering Visual, Hearing, Speech and Locomotor Disabilities had estimated 16.15 million people having at least one of the 4 disabilities and it constitutes 1.9% of the total estimated population. The same was estimated to be 12 million in 1981 and it was 1.8% of the total population. A sample survey by NSSD in the same year among children in the age group 1—14 have revealed 3% of the total population to have delayed Mental development. Malnutrition, incidence of disabilities due to diseases like Tuberculosis, Leprosy, incidence of increased accidents; general degradation in the environment; deficiency of Iodine etc. are some of the factors responsible for disability.

(d) National programmes on (i) Blindness Control; (ii) Tuberculosis; (iii) Iodine Deficiency Disorders Control; (iv) Nutrition; (v) Immunisation; (vi) Leprosy; (vii) Mental Health etc; coupled with a host of Institutions providing rehabilitation services are in operation for treatment and rehabilitation of handicapped persons.

[Translation]

Non-Formal Education Scheme

3817. SHRI DADA BABURAO PARANJPE:
DR. RAM CHANDRA DOME:
SHRI B. DHARMA BIKSHAM:

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

(a) the names of States in which non-formal Education Scheme is being implemented;

(b) whether any review of the scheme has been made;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the funds provided to the State under the scheme to provide salaries to staff of Non-formal Schools?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DE-

VELOPMENT (SHRI MUHI RAM SAIKIA): (a) The Centrally sponsored scheme of Non-formal Education is being implemented in 21 States/UTs., namely, Andhra Pradesh, Arunachal Pradesh, Assam, Bihar, Gujarat, Haryana, Himachal Pradesh, Jammu & Kashmir, Karnataka, Maharashtra, Madhya Pradesh, Manipur, Mizoram, Orissa, Rajasthan, Tamil Nadu, Uttar Pradesh, West Bengal, Chandigarh, Dadra and Nagar Haveli and Delhi.

(b) and (c). Based on the past experience gained and the problems faced in its implementation, the scheme was reviewed in 1993 for continuation in the 8th Five Year Plan. Major modifications effected in the Scheme as a result of the review include increase in central share for co-educational centres; enhancement of Project cost; increase in proportion of girls centres; provision of more flexibility and decentralisation in implementation.

(d) The NFE scheme provides for appointment of one part-time Instructor in a NFE centre at primary level and two part-time Instructors at Upper Primary level. These Instructors are paid honorarium of Rs. 200 per month and Rs. 250 per month respectively.

[English]

Training Establishments for Officers of Army and Air Force

3818. SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there are any major training establishments for officers of Army and Air Force in the State of Bihar;

(b) if not, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the Government have any proposal to create Defence training units for officers; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI N.V.N. SOMU): (a) No, Sir.

(b) The training institutions for officers of the Air Force are mostly located near the Southern Command Hqs for operational and administrative reasons. Most of the major training institutions of the Army were established prior to Independence by the British Government on their needs including fighting in Burma in the IInd World War. After Independence, these training institutions have been continued in the same locations. After Independence, a few new training institutions have been started and the reasons for locating them at a particular place are based on:—

- (i) ready availability of basic infrastructure;
- (ii) availability of land at cheaper rates;
- (iii) close proximity to sea and air base; and
- (iv) availability of all types of terrain for carrying out tactical exercises.

(c) and (d). A flying Training school is to start at Bihar near Patna in the State of Bihar.

Plague and Cerebral Malaria

3819. PROF. P.J. KURIEN:
SHRI RUPCHAND PAL:

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

(a) whether the Government had set up an Expert Committee on public health system to look into last year's plague and cerebral malaria epidemic;

(b) if so, whether this Committee has given its findings and suggestions;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the action taken by the Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI SALEEM IQBAL SHERVANI): (a) An Expert Committee under the Chairmanship of Prof. J.S. Bajaj was constituted to comprehensively review the Public Health System in the Country.

(b) The Committee has submitted its report on 6th June, 1996.

(c) The Committee has made many short-term and long-term recommendations. Some of the important recommendations made are:

- (i) Review of National Health Policy.
 - (ii) Establishment of health impact assessment cell.
 - (iii) Surveillance of critically polluted areas.
 - (iv) Establishing an Apex Technical Advisory Committee.
 - (v) Opening of Regional Schools of Public Health.
 - (vi) Establishing a Centre for Disease Control.
- (d) The Report is under examination by the Government.

Release of Cauvery Water to Tamil Nadu

3820. SHRI A.G.S. RAM BABU:
SHRI V. DHANANJYA KUMAR:

Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government have initiated any fresh proposal with the Government of Karnataka in regard to the release of Cauvery water to Tamil Nadu so as to mitigate the sufferings of the farmers of the State;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the steps being taken in this regard;

(c) the status of the Cauvery River Water Tribunal after the reported resignation of the Chairman of the Tribunal; and

(d) the latest position of the entire issue?

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI JANESHWAR MISHRA): (a) and (b). To resolve the Cauvery Water Dispute, the Central Government constituted Cauvery Water Disputes Tribunal on 2nd June, 1990. The Tribunal passed an Interim Award on 25.6.91 directing the Karnataka Government to ensure inflows of 205 Thousand Million Cubic Feet (TMC ft.) of water into Mettur Reservoir of Tamil Nadu for each water year (June to May) with monthly and weekly stipulations. 6 TMC ft of water for Karaikal region of the Union Territory of Pondicherry will be delivered by the State of Tamil Nadu in a regulated manner. Further, the state of Karnataka shall not increase its area under irrigation by the waters of river Cauvery beyond the existing 11.2 lakh acres.

So far, the Tribunal has conducted 90 hearings and the basin States are participating in the proceedings of Tribunal.

(c) and (d). No hearing of the Tribunal could take place after the resignation of its Chairman, Hon'ble Justice Shri Chittatosh Mookerjee.

As the Chairman of the Tribunal has to be a sitting Judge of the Supreme Court or of a High Court, the Hon'ble Chief Justice of India has been requested to nominate a suitable Judge as the Chairman of the Tribunal.

Defence Overhaul

3821. SHRI CHITTA BASU: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Defence experts have since advised the Government to go in for major Defence overhaul;

(b) if so, whether the Government have since undertaken an exercise in identifying the needs and quantifying the resources required; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?