

@ Rs. 75/- p.m. to destitute persons over 65 years of age, lump-sum family benefit of Rs. 5000/- and Rs. 10000/- respectively to the families for natural death and accidental death of the primary bread winner and maternity benefit of Rs. 300/- per pregnancy for two live births. The scheme is expected to benefit 5.3 million, 3.5 lakh beneficiaries and 4.5 lakh women workers respectively.

In addition to the above, the Central and the various State Governments have taken up several Insurance and Social Security Schemes like Rural Group Life Insurance Scheme, Group Insurance Scheme for Landless Agricultural Labourers in 1987 under the Social Security Fund of the LIC for providing insurance cover to all landless agricultural labourers in the age group of 18-60 years and the insurance schemes for IRDP beneficiaries in 1988. Besides, State Governments are running old age pension schemes with varying eligibility criteria and pension rates.

[Translation]

#### Necessity of English in Entrance Examination

\*417. SHRI JAGDAMBI PRASAD YADAV : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the medium of entrance examination for courses in Railway Engineering and other trades organised by railways is English;

(b) if so, the names of training and educational institutions and examinations for jobs for which English as a subject is compulsory; and

(c) the hurdles is removing compulsion of English language in all training and educational institutions and entrance examinations for jobs held by his Ministry along with other places where it is compulsory?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAM VILAS PAWAN) : (a) to (c). No Sir, Indian Railways do not conduct entrance examination for such Courses. However, for recruitment to Group 'A' posts, examinations are conducted by Union Public Service Commission.

Question papers of examinations for jobs conducted through Railway Recruitment Boards for Group 'C' posts are set in bilingual form i.e. English and Hindi. Progressively, in a phased manner, the questions in General English are now asked with questions in Hindi of equivalent marks with option to attempt either of the two. This system has been introduced for 30 categories. The possibility of extending this scheme to another 35 categories is being explored. In the next phase other categories will be considered except in case of posts where knowledge of English is considered necessary e.g. English Teacher, English Stenographer etc.

For examinations for jobs in Railways, English as a subject is not compulsory in training and educational institutions.

[English]

#### Fibre Optic System

\*418. SHRI SRIBALLAV PANIGRAHI :  
PROF. JITENDRA NATH DAS

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have received any proposal for linking all major cities along the coast with a submarine fibre optic system for high quality telecommunication network;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether any survey has been conducted to know the cost effectiveness of such project, vis-a-vis current long distance DOT network;

(d) whether such super information system will also be extended to cities of the Gangetic plains to achieve the objectives of the Indian Telecom Policy;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA) : (a) and (b). Yes, Sir. A proposal was received from VSNL during 1994 for a project named "JALMALA" which was for providing connectivity to 26 Stations around the coast of peninsular India starting from Bhavnagar in Gujarat to Calcutta. The proposal was laying a submarine optic fibre cable for a total distance of 4800 kms with a 2+1 system of 2.5 Gbps having a channel capacity of 60000 circuits and with a total cost of Rs. 760 crores.

(c) The estimated cost per km in this project works out to approximately 3 times the cost of current long distance DOT optical fibre projects.

(d) to (f). There was no proposal from VSNL to extend this project to cities of gangetic plains. However, DOT has planned very high capacity optical fibre networks to link all the major cities proposed in the above project as well as the cities in the Gangetic plains. The details of the 10 projects planned by DOT are furnished in the enclosed Statement.

#### STATEMENT

*Details of 10 High Capacity Projects  
Planned by DOT.*

1. ND-Ambala-Chandigarh-Ludhiana-Jalandhar-Bhatinda-ND STM-16 Ring
2. ND-Moradabad-Lucknow-Varanasi-Allahabad-Kanpur-Agra-ND STM-16 Ring
3. Cal-Patna-Varanasi-Ranchi-Calcutta-STM-16 Ring
4. ND-Agra-Bhopal-Indore-Jaipur-ND- STM-16 Ring
5. Mumbai-Indore-Ahmedabad-Mumbai STM-16 Ring

- 6 Mumbai-Pune-Bidar. Hyd-Bangalore-Mangalore-Mumbai STM-16 Ring
- 7 Bangalore-Chennai-Vijaywada-Hyd-Bangalore STM-16 Ring
- 8 Calcutta-Raipur-Nagpur-Hyd-Vijaybrada-Cuttak-Calcutta STM-16 Ring
- 9 Chennai-Bangalore-Coimbatore-Enk-Tvm-Madurai-Chennai STM-16 Ring
- 10 Mumbai-Pune-Bida-Nagpur-Bhopal-Indore-Mumbai STM-16 Ring.

**Unemployed Workers of  
M/s Instrumentation Ltd.**

\*419. SHRI TARACHAND BHAGORA : Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that the jobs of over 3000 workers are at risk in M/s. Instrumentation Ltd. at Kota as the Government undertaking has become sick; and

(b) if so, the steps taken or proposed to be taken to revive the unit and protect the job of the workers?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM) : (a) and (b). The case of M/s. Instrumentation Ltd., Kota was referred to BIFR in October, 1993 and the company was declared as a sick unit under Sick Industrial companies (Special Provisions) Act, 1985 by BIFR on 19.1.1994. BIFR have appointed IDBI as the operating agency for formulation of a revival plan. After inviting bids for takeover/merger of this company, IDBI received certain offers which have not been found acceptable by BIFR. M/s. Instrumentation Ltd., Kota has submitted another revival plan to the IDBI and Government.

**Welfare Project for Working Children**

\*420. SHRI HARIN PATHAK : Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state :

(a) the details of voluntary agencies being financially assisted by the Government for taking up welfare projects for working children under the Grants in aid scheme in different parts of the country State-wise/project-wise; and

(b) the achievements made by the above agencies during the last two years?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM) : (a) and (b). A list of agencies assisted under the scheme of Grants in aid to voluntary organisations, during the years 1994-95 and 1996 is enclosed in the Statement.

2. Activities taken up by the voluntary agencies with financial assistance from the Government include measures for prevention of child labour, taking up of welfare projects wherein the children are provided non-formal education, vocational/skill training, supplementary

nutrition and health care etc. All the voluntary agencies taken together covered 2820 and 4545 children during 1994-95 and 1995-96 respectively.

**STATEMENT**

*List of Organisations Assisted Under  
Grants-In-Aid Scheme*

**1994-95**

1. The Congregation of the Sisters of the Cross of Chavanad, Tiruchirappalli.
2. Indian Council for Child Welfare, New Delhi.
3. Ruchika School, Bhubaneswar.
4. Karnataka State Council for Child Welfare, Bangalore.
5. Institute of Psychological and Educational Research, Calcutta, West Bengal.
6. India International Rural Centre, New Delhi.
7. Amrit Child Labour Welfare Society, Ahmedabad, (Gujarat).
8. Vivekananda Education Society, Calcutta, West Bengal.
9. Shramik Vikas Sewa Ashram, Allahabad, Uttar Pradesh.
10. Central Young Mizo Association, Aizawal, Mizoram.
11. Indian Council for Child Welfare, New Delhi.

**1995-96**

1. The Congregation of the Sisters of the Cross of Chavanad, Tiruchirappalli, Tamil Nadu.
2. Indian Council for Child Welfare, New Delhi.
3. Ruchika School, Bhubaneswar, Orissa.
4. Karnataka State Council for Child Welfare, Bangalore, Karnataka.
5. Institute of Psychological and Educational Research, Calcutta, West Bengal.
6. India International Rural Centre, New Delhi.
7. Vivekananda Education Society, Calcutta, West Bengal.
8. Shramik Vikas Sewa Ashram, Allahabad, Uttar Pradesh.
9. Gramin Sansadhan Vikas Parishad, Buxur, Bihar.
10. United Club, Ujini, Orissa.
11. Jibaramjee Club, Orissa.
12. Gram Vikas Seva Samity, Allahabad, Uttar Pradesh.
13. Karimpur Social Welfare Society, Dist. Nadia, West Bengal.
14. India Council for Child Welfare, Tamil Nadu.
15. Vijayapuram Praja Seva Samithi, Chittoor, Andhra Pradesh.
16. Bandhuwa Mukti Morcha, New Delhi.
17. Rafi Ahmed Kidwai Shiskha Samity, Bhopal, Madhya Pradesh.
18. Gram Swaraj Abhiyan Sansthan, Baishali, Bihar.