

(a) whether the Government have decided that the Centrally sponsored schemes such as Operation Black Board, Teacher Education, Non-formal Education, Mid-Day-meal Scheme and National Literacy Mission Schemes will be handled by the Union Government in near future;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the Government are considering the transfer of Secondary Education Sector, Computer Literacy, vocationalisation of Secondary Education and promotion of yoga to the State Sector; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

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

(b) These schemes are in Elementary and Literacy sectors of education which are under the Basic Minimum Services Programme of the Government.

(c) and (d) An attempt has been made to delineate Centrally Sponsored Schemes under Secondary Education Sector and Language Development for transfer to the States based on the recommendations adopted by the conference of Chief Ministers on Basic Minimum Services held in New Delhi on 4-5 July, 1996. The details of these schemes are as under:

Secondary Education

1. Computer Literacy and Studies in Schools (CLASS).
2. Integrated Education for Disabled Children (IEDC).
3. Vocationalisation of Secondary Education.
4. Environment Orientation of School Education.
5. Improvement of Science Education.
6. Promotion of Yoga.
7. Educational Technology.

Language Development

8. Appointment and Training of Hindi Teachers in Non-Hindi Speaking States/UTs.
9. Appointment and Training of Modern Indian Languages Teachers in Hindi Speaking States/UTs.
10. Appointment of Urdu Teachers.

Use of Old-Unfit Horses by Armed Forces

*512. SHRIMATI MANEKA GANDHI : Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) the manner in which armed forces use its old/unfit horses; and

(b) the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI MULAYAM SINGH YADAV) : (a) and (b) Old and Unfit horses are disposed of by the Armed Forces in the following manner:—

(a) *Destruction*: Those horses which are incurably injured or are suffering from chronic diseases and cannot be cured are euthanised.

(b) *Issue to Serum Institutes*: Horses which are in the satisfactory state of health and not suffering from any infectious/contagious disease are given free of cost to Serum Institutes engaged in production of life saving vaccines for human and veterinary use.

(c) *Cast & Sale*: Those horses which are unfit for Military duties but considered suitable for light work are sold to educational institutes and to riding clubs as per Defence Services regulations in force.

Vocational Education Centres

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

(a) the number of Vocational Education Centres functioning in the country, State-wise;

(b) the number of Vocational Education Centres proposed to be opened during 1996-97, State-wise;

(c) whether Vocational Course has not yet been introduced at Secondary level; and

(d) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI S.R. BOMMAI) : (a) to (d) There are no separate vocational education centres. However, under the Centrally Sponsored Scheme of Vocationalisation of Secondary Education, vocational sections have been started in schools at higher secondary level. The number of vocational sections functioning in the country is given State-wise in the enclosed Statement. Under the Scheme, no specific allocations are made for individual States/UTs. Vocational sections are sanctioned on the basis of proposals received from States/UTs.

A Centrally Sponsored Scheme of Pre-Vocational Education at Lower Secondary Stage has also been introduced since 1993-94, under which vocational courses are offered in class IX and X in schools.