

Standard of Education in Universities/Colleges

671. SHRI SHANKER PRASAD JAISWAL : Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are considering to take some steps to improve the education standard in Universities and Colleges;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government propose to make it compulsory for the students to undertake one year social science course before awarding them degree; and

(d) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT AND MINISTER OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI) (a) and (b) In pursuance of National Policy on Education Government and UGC have taken several steps to improve academic standards in the Universities. Some of the major steps taken for the purpose are as follows :—

- Revision of pay scales of college and university teachers w.e.f. 1.1.1986. Further revision has become due w.e.f. 1.1.1996. However, the new scales are yet to be implemented due to certain problems. 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 undergraduate and postgraduate courses.
- Financial assistance provided by UGC for improvement of teaching and research under Special Assistance Programmes.
- Inter-University Centres established by UGC to provide front-line facilities and services for advancement of research in the university system.
- High priority given to grant of autonomy to selected colleges.
- 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.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

[English]

Violation of Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980

672. SHRI SURESH CHANDEL : Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state :

(a) the action taken by the Ministry pertaining to the matters of encroachment of Reserve Forest, Khas Forest Lands, its transfer in the name of private persons and sale of the same in North Sikkim;

(b) whether as per the spot enquiry and verification report by the Chief Conservator of Forests, Eastern Zone, Bhubaneshwar, the encroachments are confirmed;

(c) the action taken by the Government for this gross violation of F.C.A. 1980.

(d) the action taken by the State Government in this respect so far; and

(e) the action taken by the Government in this regard so far on the assurance given in the Parliament?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI BABU LAL MARANDI) : (a) and (b) On receipt of information relating to the encroachment of reserve Forests, Khas Forest Lands, its transfer in the name of private persons and sale of the same in North Sikkim, the Chief Conservator of Forests, Eastern Zone, Bhubaneshwar was asked to conduct enquiry. The report indicates *prima facie* violation of the provisions of Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980

(c) The Central Government has sought the comments of the State Government on the relevant portions of the report of the Chief Conservator of Forests, Bhubaneshwar. State Government has submitted only an interim report. Final report is still awaited.

(d) and (e) The Central Government has taken up the matter once again at the Chief Secretary level for expediting the comments.

Policy for Allotment of Chambers to Advocates

673. SHRI E. AHAMED : Will the Minister of LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to refer to the reply given to Unstarred Question No. 470 on November 21, 1997 and state

(a) whether the Registry of the Supreme Court has since prepared any policy regarding the allotment of the chambers to its advocates;

(b) If so, the details thereof;

(c) If not the reasons for each suggestion for being not accepted in the policy; and

(d) the steps taken or proposed to be taken by the Registry of the Supreme Court for providing accommodation to all the registered advocates without chambers in the new building meant for them or elsewhere in the precinct of the Supreme Court?

THE MINISTER OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (DR. M. THAMBI DURAI) : (a) to (d) The information is being collected from the Registry of the Supreme Court and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Proposal for Super Thermal Power Project at MTPS

674. SHRI SUNIL KHAN : Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the 3rd unit of Malthan Thermal Power station will be synchronized shortly;

(b) whether there is any proposal to set up Super Thermal Power Project at M.T.P.S.;

(c) If so, the likely time by which the work on this would start; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI P.R. KUMARAMANGALAM) : (a) to (d) Malthan thermal power station with an installed capacity of 1000 MW is still at the initial planning stage. The work on the project can only commence after DVC receives techno-economic clearance from CEA and other statutory clearances and the financing and other technical arrangements are finalised.

Electronic Telephone Exchanges in A.P.

675. SHRI K.S. RAO : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) the number of electronic telephone exchanges functioning in Andhra Pradesh, district-wise;

(b) whether there is any proposal to convert some of the existing manual telephone exchanges into electronic ones in various cities in Andhra Pradesh in the current year;

(c) If so, the details thereof, district-wise; and

(d) the estimated expenditure involved in conversion of these exchanges?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI KABINDRA PURKAYASTHA) : (a) There are 1996 Nos. of electronic telephone exchanges working in Andhra Pradesh as on

31.3.98. District-wise details are given in the enclosed Statement.

(b) There are no manual Telephone Exchanges in AP as on 31.3.98.

(c) and (d) Does not arise in view of (b) above.

Statement

District-wise Electronic Exchanges as on 31.3.98 in A.P.

S.No.	Name of the District	No of Electronic Exchanges
1.	Adilabad	61
2.	Ananthapur	127
3.	Chittoor	130
4.	Cuddapah	86
5.	East Godavari	106
6.	Guntur	114
7.	Hyderabad	48
7A.	Rangareddy	69
8.	Karimnagar	79
9.	Khammam	80
10.	Krishna	120
11.	Kurnool	125
12.	Mahaboodnagar	97
13.	Medak	86
14.	Nalgonda	83
15.	Nellore	92
16.	Nizamabad	57
17.	Prakasham	78
18.	Srikakulam	51
19.	Visakhapatnam	65
20.	Vizianagaram	50
21.	Warangal	55
22.	West Godavari	137
Total		1996

[Translation]

New Thermal Power Station in Bihar

676. SHRI RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH : Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to install new thermal power stations or increase the capacity of the