

(e) whether the Government propose to telecast them again on the Doordarshan; and

(f) if not, the reason therefor?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING AND MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ): (a) to (f) Matters relating to the telecast of serials on Doordarshan are entirely within the purview of Prasar Bharati, and are not decided upon by the Government.

[English]

Filip to Scientific Research and Development

*378. SHRI K.S. RAO:

SHRI SURENDRA PRASAD YADAV
(JHANJHARPUR):

Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has announced series of proposals to give filip to Scientific Research and Development in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether with a view to commemorating the event of nuclear tests at Pokhran, the Government have decided to celebrate 11th May each year as 'Technology Day'; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCES DEVELOPMENT AND MINISTER OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The Prime Minister during his speech at the Shanti Swarup Bhatnagar Prize distribution function held on the 25th May, 1998 outlined the following specific suggestions for consideration of the Scientific community, industry and policy makers in the Government to:

- (i) make science and scientific temper an integral part of national life
- (ii) reform science education at school level to promote creativity
- (iii) make science central to planning process
- (iv) enhance the intellectual and psychic income of our young scientists and recognise and respect the achievements of talented scientists
- (v) synergise and create knowledge networks
- (vi) promote R&D in and by industry
- (vii) focus and concentrate on select areas to achieve global excellence and leadership
- (viii) enhance the use of Information Technology through a national campaign
- (ix) create an intellectual property movement

(x) debureaucratise scientific institutions

(c) and (d) The 11th May has been declared as 'Technology Day' to emphasise the importance that the Government gives to the role of Science and Technology in the nation building and to commemorate the historic triple nuclear explosion at Pokhran; launching of Hansa-3, the first indigenous civil aircraft and test firing of Trishul.

Revamping Education System

*379. PROF. P.J. KURIEN:

SHRI NADENDLA BHASKARA RAO:

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

(a) whether the Government have worked out a scheme to revamp the education system to meet the needs of the rural population;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government have established a synergy among teaching, research and field work in consultation with the research organisations; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCES DEVELOPMENT AND MINISTER OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI): (a) to (d) In pursuance of the emphasis embodied in the National Policy on Education (NPE), 1986 as modified in 1992 and its Programme of Action (POA), 1992 which were placed before the Parliament in 1992, several schemes were launched by way of Central interventions primarily for meeting the educational needs of the rural population. These scheme are Operation Blackboard, Non-formal Education, Teacher Education, National Programme of Nutritional Support to Primary Education (Mid-day Meal scheme), District Primary Education Programme, Mahila Samakhya, Total Literacy Campaign, Community Polytechnics, Lok Jumbish, Siksha Karmi Project, Area Intensive Project for Educationally Backward Minorities, Integrated Education for Disabled Children Scheme etc. The Navodaya Vidyalayas are also centres of excellence in rural areas. A National Council of Rural Institutes has also been set up at Hyderabad for promoting rural higher education.

There are a number of apex level organisations working with the Central Government such as National Council of Educational Research and Training (NCERT), National Institute of Educational Planning and Administration (NIEPA), National Institute of Adult Education (NIAE), Central Institute of Vocational Education (CIVE), where teaching, research and field work are being combined for achieving synergy in educational programmes in rural areas. These organisations also provide support in these areas to State Government organisations such as State Council of Educational Research and Training (SCERTs), District Institutes of Education and Training (DIETs) and State Institutes of Educational Management and Training (SIEMATs). However, education is a social transformation process where the emphasis is on processes