

(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]

Fillip 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 fillip 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 Swaroop 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 schemes 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 Samakhyas, 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

of a continuous nature. The results are achieved over a period of time and not quantifiable over a shorter period.

Financial Help to Indigent Artists

*380. SHRI P. UPENDRA: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Department of Culture has introduced a system of providing financial help to the indigent artists; and

(b) if so, the number of such artists provided with financial assistance during the last three years and the quantum thereof?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCES DEVELOPMENT AND MINISTER OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI): (a) Yes Sir. The Department of Culture is operating a scheme of Financial Assistance to persons distinguished in letters, arts and such other walks of life who may be in indigent circumstances and their dependents.

(b) The number of artists covered under the scheme is 657 in 1995-96; 634 in 1996-97 and 633 in 1997-98.

Scheme provides for an assistance of Rs. 1,500/- per month to the artiste.

National Policy for the Empowerment of Women

*381. SHRI MADHAV RAO PATIL: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have finalised the draft National policy for the Empowerment of women;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the names of the States included in the 50 million dollar project for Rural Women's Development and Empowerment;

(d) whether the State of Maharashtra has not been included in the said project; and

(e) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCES DEVELOPMENT AND MINISTER OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

(DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI): (a) and (b) A draft National Policy for the Empowerment of Women has been finalised and is awaiting approval of the Government.

(c) The proposed Rural Women's Development and Empowerment Project (RWDEP) covers certain areas in the States of Bihar, Gujarat, Haryana, Karnataka, Madhya Pradesh and Uttar Pradesh.

(d) and (e) The six states selected are a good mix of states (Bihar, Haryana, Madhya Pradesh and Uttar Pradesh) with very low status of women and states (Gujarat and Karnataka) which are comparatively better off.

Assistance to NGOs for Adult Education

3643. DR. ULHAS VASUDEO PATIL:

SHRIMATI JAYANTI PATNAIK:

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

(a) whether some Non-Government Organisations (NGOs) are working for the promotion of Adult Education in the country;

(b) if so, the name and the location of such NGOs, Statewise;

(c) whether the Union Government and international organisations provide assistance to them; and

(d) if so, the details thereof for the last three years?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCES DEVELOPMENT AND MINISTER OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (d) A Statement showing the details of Voluntary Agencies working in the field of Adult Education programme in the States and the amount released to them during the last three years under the Scheme of Assistance to Voluntary Agencies in Adult Education is enclosed at the Statement I and II. The Projects are funded by the Centre on 100% basis under this scheme. Since the NGOs are provided 100% financial assistance by the Union Government under this scheme, no assistance from States and International Organisation is needed by NGOs for such Projects.

Statement-I

List of Voluntary Agencies which have been released funds during the year 1995-96

Name and address of the agency	Amount sanctioned (Rs.)
1	2
Andhra Pradesh	
1. Andhra Pradesh Open School Society SCERT Campus Near Lal Bahadur Stadium, Hyderabad	8583750
2. Seva Mandir, Hindupur, Distt. Anantpur, A.P.	259000 259000