

Loss in Cochin Port Trust*[English]*

3819. SHRI P.C. THOMAS: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Cochin Port Trust has incurred a loss of several crores of rupees;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor;
- (c) whether cranes used for uplifting container to and from cargo ships have failed to perform; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (DR. DEBENDRA PRADHAN): (a) and (b) No, Sir.

(c) and (d) The container handling cranes are fully operational at the Port.

State Councils for Child Welfare

3820. SHRI S.S. OWAISI: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the complaints have been received on irregularities in the functioning of the Andhra State Council for Child Welfare and other State Councils; and
- (b) if so, the details thereof, State-wise and action taken or measures proposed to improve the functioning of the State Councils for Child Welfare?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCES DEVELOPMENT AND MINISTER OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI): (a) No, Sir.

- (b) Does not arise.

Crisis Management Group for Kandla Port

3821. SHRI MOHAN RAWALE: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government have set up a high-powered 'Crisis Management Group' to bring the cyclone devastated Kandla Port back into action;
- (b) if so, the composition and terms of reference of the Group;
- (c) the time by which the said Group is likely to submit its report;
- (d) whether due to apprehensions of an epidemic breaking out, labourers are hesitant to work at the Kandla Port; and
- (e) if so, the measures taken for the restoration of the confidence of the labourers of the Kandla Port?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (DR. DEBENDRA PRADHAN): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Crisis Management Group was set up to coordinate and monitor the assistance required by the Kandla Port Trust for restoration of the Port facilities damaged due to cyclone. The Crisis Management Group included the representatives of Ministries of Petroleum and Natural Gas, Defence, Commerce and Railways.

(c) As Crisis Management Group is only a monitoring agency, no report is envisaged.

(d) and (e) No, Sir. The Port operations have already commenced w.e.f. 25.6.98 with the active cooperation of the Kandla Dock Labour Board.

Setting up of Kendriya Vidyalayas in Foreign Countries*[Translation]*

3822. SHRI ADITYANATH:

SHRI CHINMAYANAND SWAMI:

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

- (a) whether the Kendriya Vidyalayas have been opened in foreign countries;
- (b) if so, the details thereof, country-wise;
- (c) the criteria laid down in this regard;
- (d) whether the Government propose to open some more Kendriya Vidyalayas in the foreign countries;
- (e) if so, the details thereof, country-wise; and
- (f) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCES DEVELOPMENT AND MINISTER OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Two Kendriya Vidyalayas, one each at Kathmandu (Nepal), and Moscow (Russia), are presently functioning.

(c) The above Kendriya Vidyalayas were opened on the request of the Ministry of External Affairs, mainly for the benefit of Central Government employees serving in the Indian Embassies and other Government of India organisations.

(d) to (f) No, Sir. No such proposal is presently pending.

New Telephone Exchanges in W.B.*[English]*

3823. SHRI AMAR ROY PRADHAN: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state;

- (a) whether the Government propose to set up new telephone exchanges in West Bengal during Ninth Five Year Plan and the current financial year 1998-99;