

Projects Policy of Government of India stipulates that the beneficiary States would have to privatise distribution in the cities having a population of more than one million.

(c) Efforts are being made to set up the Power Trading Corporation at the earliest.

Wreckage of Ships in Coastal Waters

1177. SHRI KAMAL NATH :

SHRI CHANDU LAL AJMEERA :

SHRI G. GANGA REDDY :

SHRI CHADA SURESH REDDY :

Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state :

(a) whether attention of the Government has been drawn to the news item captioned "Coastal waters are graveyards for old vessels" appearing in the 'Asian Age' dated September 7, 1998;

(b) if so, the facts of the matter reported therein;

(c) the reaction of the Government thereto; and

(d) the steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Government to check this growing trend?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (DR. DEBENDRA PRADHAN) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The news item under question refers to the absence of effective maritime legislation to check entry of un-seaworthy ships leading to their alleged deliberate sinking by the owners to claim insurance money.

(c) It cannot be said that the coastal waters and ports in India have become graveyards for old ships.

(d) While action to fix responsibility on owners of sunken vessels in the port limits is taken under the Major Port Trusts Act which expressly provides that the responsibility of removal of the wreck rests on the owners of the ship, responsibility of removal of wreck occurring outside port limits but in India's territorial waters, has not been expressly imposed on the ship owners under the existing provisions of the Merchant Shipping Act.

Action has already been initiated to amend the relevant provisions of the Act.

Standard of Education in Kendriya Vidyalayas

1178. SHRI TEJVEER SINGH :

SHRI RAMANAND SINGH :

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

(a) whether the standard of education in Kendriya Vidyalayas has deteriorated;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the steps being taken by the Government to improve the education standard of Kendriya Vidyalayas?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT AND MINISTER OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI) : (a) and (b) The pass percentage of Class X and XII of Kendriya Vidyalayas has been consistently higher than the average pass percentage of Central Board of Secondary Education as will be clear from the given table :

Year	Class-X		Class-XII	
	KVS	CBSE	KVS	CBSE
1996	77%	62.24%	78.70%	72%
1997	79.11%	68.30%	83.31%	78.50%
1998	76.8%	63.2%	79.9%	72.6%

However, compared to 1997 result of Kendriya Vidyalaya Sangathan, a declining trend has been noted in 1998. The Central Board of Secondary Education results have also shown similar trend.

(c) The Sangathan has planned to improve standard of education through various measures like intensive monitoring of academic activities, filling vacancies by appointment of teachers on contractual basis, systematic in-service training of teachers and Principals and completion of syllabus in December followed by remedial teaching for weak students and revision for others.

[Translation]

Mid-Day Meal Scheme

1179. SHRI VITHAL TUPE :

SHRI R.S. GAVAI :

SHRI ANNASAHAB M.K. PATIL :

SHRI MAGANTI BABU :

SHRI ASHOK NAMDEORAO MOHOL :

SHRI ABHAYSINH S. BHONSLE :

SHRI AJAY KUMAR S. SARNAIK :

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

(a) whether the Food Corporation of India has been entrusted with the work of supplying wheat and rice for Mid-Day Meal Scheme;