

us. We are shortlisting them. We are going to implement that scheme and we are not denying that.

As far as exports are concerned, the Cochin Port is doing very well.

MR. SPEAKER : You have already answered that.

DR. M. THAMBI DURAI : There is a problem on the import side. We are making all efforts to see that we can develop imports more by connecting Bangalore and other sectors so that we can transmit all the goods to that side. We are making all efforts in this regard.

SHRI K. YERRANNAIDU : Mr. Speaker, Sir, we have got big sea coasts of nearly 6,100 kilometres. We have only 11 major ports. Has the Government of India conducted any survey to find out the feasibility of other ports, if so, what are those areas?

The second part of the question is that though our ports are called international ports yet they are not of International standards. If you see Singapore and Hong Kong which have very thin population, they have got ports of international standards. I would like to know whether the Government of India is having any policy like the EXIM policy for the improvement of ports. Has the Government of India announced any such policy so far?

DR. M. THAMBI DURAI : As far as the question of conducting a survey for the development of other ports in the area is concerned, we are making all efforts.

Regarding improving the existing ports, we are already having many schemes. We have allocated Rs. 16,000 crore for the development of ports. We are making all efforts in this regard, so that they can be compared with other international ports.

SHRI PRABHAT KUMAR SAMANTARAY : Sir, the hon. Minister has replied that they have made an allotment of Rs. 549 crore in the Ninth Five Plan for the development of Calcutta and Haldia ports. The capacity utilisation in all the 11 major ports has been over-stretched for the last ten years. I would like to know from the hon. Minister specially as to what is the plan outlay for all other ten major ports. What capacity is he going to add to the existing capacity of the major ports by providing that much, as is available today?

DR. M. THAMBI DURAI : We are having a Master Plan for the Ninth Five Year Plan to develop all the 11 major ports. If the hon. Member wants the details of each port, I am ready to furnish the details for each port. We have allocated Rs. 7,215 crore for the port side from the Budget resources and also Rs. 785 crore for other training programme. The total comes to Rs. 8,000 crore that we have allotted from the Government's side. If the hon. Member wants the

details of each port as to how much we have allotted, I can supply him the details.

MR. SPEAKER : You can send these to the hon. Member.

UNDP Report on HRD

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*102. SHRI MOHAN SINGH :
PROF. AJIT KUMAR MEHTA :

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

(a) whether according to the recent report of UNDP on Human Development, India ranks lowest among the nations of the world in the Human Development Index;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the strategy being contemplated by the Government to bring the country at the world level in the Human Development Index?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT AND MINISTER OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI) :

(a) and (b) No, Sir. According to the Human Development Report, 1998 of United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), India stands at 139th rank in terms of Human Development Index Out of 174 countries in the world. However, there has been improvement over the years in all the three indicators of Human Development Index, viz., Longevity, Educational Attainment and Standard of Living. This needs to be accelerated.

(c) As per the Approach paper to the Ninth Five Year Plan (1997-2000), the objectives of the plan, *inter-alia*, include accelerating the growth rate of the economy, providing basic minimum services of safe drinking water, primary health care facilities, universal primary education, shelter and connectivity to all in a time bound manner.

[Translation]

SHRI MOHAN SINGH : Mr. Speaker, Sir, in fact that question is not concerned with the Minister concerned only because so far as the question of human resource development is concerned, the per-capita income, the national economic growth in the country and the share of the common man in that economic growth, all these points are important to which the hon. Minister can not clarify alone.

The hon. Minister may or may not feel ashamed but I feel ashamed that the country which is number three from the point of security, the second number from the point of population and a wonderful country from the point of the entire resources stands at 139th

rank out of 174 countries in the world in terms of human resource development index. It is matter of shame. Few things have been enumerated by the hon. Minister as to what is to be done during the Ninth Five Year Plan. The draft of the Ninth Five Year Plan has been revised twice or thrice. If we take three years to put forth the schemes related to development of the country before the society and the Parliament and the hon. Minister gives the reply that we are marching ahead to some extent in terms of human resource development, while the quality of life is constantly decreasing in our country. I would like to ask one question from the hon Minister regarding education since he has said that their aim of making education compulsory has been dropped. Primary education which should be provided by the govt. is being continued. The higher education has been made costly. Any students from the ordinary families finds it difficult today to go for higher education as it has become a costly affair. I would like to know from the hon. Minister as to what steps are being taken to make the costly higher education cheaper in our country?

DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI : Mr. Speaker, Sir, really this question is very serious and important but it seems that wherever the word 'human' is written, that question comes to the Human Resource Development Ministry. I do not have any objection to it but my submission to the hon. Member, who has asked this question is that at first I would like to submit that we have not made education expensive. We have not raised the education fee.

Secondly, as far as the question of making primary education compulsory, the government is fully committed to that and for that we are making efforts. We have constituted a task force of seven hon. Chief Ministers, which would give its views in this regard and would march ahead to implement the scheme. We have made substantial increase in the budget estimates to the year 1997-98. For minorities, the amount which was 33 crore rupees, has been increased to 88 crore rupees by making a hike around 67 around. Efforts have been made to provide free education to women and budget provision for it has also been made. Free education to the girls belonging to the Scheduled Castes should be provided in the hostels and for that the government is contemplating to launch Kasturba Gandhi Scheme. Likewise primary education should be made compulsory for all and for it, the govt. is committed. It is a constitutional obligation and there should not be any doubt about it but attention should be paid towards the fact that education is a major factor for the development of human resource and human development is a very big component of it.

These are three components in it. One is education, the second is longevity as to how long one lives and the third is, the manner in which the

G.D.P. increases. These are the three major factors which have been taken into consideration. Therefore, education is a major factor of it. We had made a provision to spend eight thousand crore rupees for school education during the 8th Five Year Plan. Our Department has demanded to make a provision of Rupees 78 thousand crore and whatever has been told to me so far is that the Planning Commission is planning to allocate 25 thousand crore rupees on this account. Likewise we are trying to increase this amount of 8 thousand crore rupees by three times, so that the education can be made available to all. Serious efforts are being made in this direction. Therefore there is no scope for any doubts.

SHRI MOHAN SINGH : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I had asked the Hon'ble Minister that while spending 77 thousand crore rupees to improve the quality of education with that amount he would open similar kind of Primary schools as are being run today and which compel the rich people to go for primary education spending Rs. 10 thousand. Similar is the position of higher education. You can become a Doctor by giving 20 lakh rupees, you can pass civil service examinations or management examinations by giving 20 lakh rupees and you can acquire those degrees.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Mohan Singh, please conclude. There are eight more Members to ask supplementaries.

[Translation]

SHRI MOHAN SINGH : Mr. Speaker Sir, my question is that what action is being taken by his department to improve the quality of education by providing financial aid, so that people may not be compelled to join private sector schools for acquiring primary as well as higher education.

DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI : Sir, I have clearly told that for spread of education and to improve the quality of education the nation has to take a decision to make efforts to enhance the percentage of Gross Domestic Product from 6 percent to 8-9 percent. You cannot improve its quality without investing into this sector. There are more than 9 lakh primary schools in the country at present and approximately 1 to 1.25 lakh more primary schools are required. Likewise more teachers are required to be appointed, buildings are needed to be constructed, other basic facilities are required to be provided in these schools. A provision of atleast Rupees 40 to 80 thousand crore is required to be made for spread of the primary and elementary education. If we get this much amount then this task can be undertaken. The entire House has to consider this issue as to how this amount is to be arranged. Apart from it there are many programmes of the

government to improve the quality of the educational institutions. If you permit me I may read it for you, otherwise I can send it in writing.

SHRI MOHAN SINGH : Mr. Speaker Sir, Please allot one day for discussion on this topic that why a big country like India is ranked 139th in the world in this regard?...*(Interruptions)*

DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI : I agree to this.

[English]

SHRI P. UPENDRA : Mr. Speaker, Sir, the hon. Minister has started his answer with a 'No'. He might be satisfied with the status of India — 35th from the bottom — but we are not. Under the indicator, standard of living, a number of items were included. This aspect was thoroughly discussed in the World Social Summit in 1995 held in Copenhagen and they set some standards to be achieved by various member-countries. We had also participated in that Summit.

Another Social Summit is going to be held in the year 2000. How far have we been able to achieve the standards prescribed in the World Social Summit in 1995?

[Translation]

DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI : Sir, a notice would be required for it because this question is related to the human development reports.

[English]

SHRI P. UPENDRA : It is inter-related. It is connected with that.

[Translation]

DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI : This question is directly related to that. Notice is required for that. I will answer it.

[English]

SHRI KHARABELA SWAIN : The hon. Minister has mentioned in his reply that the educational attainment need to be accelerated. But what we find is that there has been mushrooming of the private colleges in various States. They do not conform to any educational standard; they do not have libraries, laboratories, classrooms etc. My question is this. Do the Government have any plan to stop the mushrooming of these private colleges in the States which do not conform to any educational standard?

[Translation]

DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI : Not a single private school could be opened or recognised without

the permission of the State Government. UGC has laid criterion. Unless that criterion is fulfilled no school could be opened or recognised. This question depends on the policy of the State Government as to what sort of schools it want to open.

[English]

MR. ASIM BALA : Did the Central Government send any guidelines to them?

DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI : That is there.

PROF. A.K. PREMAJAM : The hon. Minister has given the assurance that free education would be given to the girls and also as per the Approach Paper to the Ninth Five Year Plan, there is a proposal for universalisation of primary education. But, is it true that the Government is proposing to have a discriminatory, gender-biased education for the girls? Because a section of the press was reporting that under the special curriculum for the girls, they wanted to include cooking and house-keeping also. If the Government is having such a proposal, then it is definitely a gender-biased, and a discriminatory approach. I want a clarification as to whether the Government is having such a proposal for the education of girls.

DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI : There is no such proposal for the education of girls.

PROF. A.K. PREMAJAM : I want a specific answer.

DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI : I have said that there is no such proposal. It is a very specific answer.

[Translation]

SHRI JANG BAHADUR SINGH PATEL : Hon'ble Speaker Sir, India ranked 139th in the matter of human development amongst 174 countries. I would like to know from the Hon'ble Minister as to how much amount has been earmarked in the current budget to improve this ranking and what steps are being taken in future to improve this ranking?

DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI : There are three parts of Human Resources one education two longevity and third G.D.P. GDP is the only such factor which is subject to change every year i.e. it may increase or decrease. The act of longevity and education cannot be seen in one year, this would be seen in the long run atleast after five to ten years. Therefore, our education related programme would show its result not before five to seven years. The first thing we have done is that we have requested for more funds to be provided for education in the Ninth Five Year Plan. As per our estimates, amount of Rs. 78 thousand crore should be earmarked for this purpose in the current Five Year Plan which we feel should be invested in this sector. But as per the

information being received from the Planning Commission only a sum of Rs. 25 thousand crore is likely to be sanctioned for this purpose. What proportion of money would you like to contribute towards education in the economy of the country, do you consider the amount spent on education as an investment or an expenditure. The previous Government had considered education as a low priority event. We consider it a high priority event as investment should be made in this sector on priority basis. Human Resources could not be developed without education, health services and nutrition. We have enhanced the food subsidy in Nutrition upto 9000 crore rupees, which is a record itself. We want that the people should get food. Mid-day meal scheme is being run. That scheme is being improved, so that the children can be fed properly. Our first aim is to accomplish this task as per the facilities of nutrition, education and health.

Expenditure on R & D

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*103. PROF. PREM SINGH CHANDUMAJRA :
DR. CHINTA MOHAN :

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

(a) whether India occupies 7th place in the world in terms of the number of competent engineers and scientists in the field of research and whereas in terms of competitiveness it stands at 45th place in the world;

(b) if not, the assessment of the government in this regard;

(c) whether only 0.9 percent of Gross National Product is being spent on research in the country; and

(d) if not, the percentage of GNP spent on research activities in 1995-96, 1996-97 and 1997-98 and the amount allocated for research activities for the current financial year?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT AND MINISTER OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI) : (a) and (b) According to the UNESCO Statistical Yearbook 1997, India has been ranked at the 7th position in terms of scientists and engineers engaged in research and development.

The "Global Competitiveness Report 1998" published by World Economic Forum has ranked India 50th in 1998 in terms of competitiveness.

(c) and (d) The published available official statistics with the Government giving data on the

percentage of GNP spent on research activities is available upto the year 1994-95 only. According to this statistics, the expenditure on Research and Development in India as percentage of Gross National Product has been around 0.8% during the past few years. In absolute terms India's Research and Development expenditure increased over the years from Rs. 3974.17 crores in 1990-91 to Rs. 6821.02 crores in 1994-95. This statistics does not take into account the expenditure that might have been incurred by other entities including businesses and companies which have not applied for recognition of their in-house Research and Development Units by Department of Scientific and Industrial Research.

During the current financial year outlay for Central Scientific Department/Agencies in the Science & Technology sector is of the order of Rs. 3940 crores.

PROF. PREM SINGH CHANDUMAJRA : Mr. Speaker as the Hon'ble Minister has already admitted that if a competition of qualified engineers is to be held, our country is ranked at seventh place but if we see the research papers 70 percent research papers are written by the foreign engineers I would like to know from the Minister as to what is the reason behind it.

Secondly, I would like to know from the Hon'ble member this thing too that only 0.9 percent of G.D.P is being spent on Research and Development, what percentage of G.D.P is being spent on agriculture sector?

DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI : Our Department for Scientific research do not possess the data regarding the agriculture sector give us a notice for that we would get the data from the Department of Agriculture. ICAR is not under our department, a separate notice is required for that. Your statement is true and I have already said that the quality of our research papers is not at all of international standard. We have analysed the reasons responsible for it.

The number of talented people expected to enter the Science sector during last few years has also not been encouraging and less number of such people have joined this sector. The condition of laboratories during the last few years has also not been upto the standard. Only a meagre amount of funds have been provided or invested by the Universities in the field of higher education. Therefore the laboratories and Scientists have not been provided the requisite facilities, and that is why they could not perform the entrusted tasks, we have made some changes keeping this in view and we are trying to provide maximum facilities to the Science sector and we have formulated heavy programmes to attract talented students towards this sector.