

(b) if so, whether it conforms to the policy of the Government of decentralisation of recruitment of Group 'C' and 'D' employees; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor and the justification thereof?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT, MINISTER OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND MINISTER OF DEPARTMENT OF OCEAN DEVELOPMENT (DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI): (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. Regular recruitment to all teaching and non-teaching posts, except those in Group 'D', will now be centrally made to ensure greater degree of objectivity, transparency, uniformity in standards, and selection of teachers on the basis of proven merit as independently assessed on all India basis on a uniform and standardised criteria.

However, the Asstt. Commissioner of the Regional Offices of KVS, will continue to be appointing authority. With this change, Regional Offices will be able to concentrate more on academic supervision and thereby bring qualitative improvement in academic standards.

[Translation]

#### **Recruitment Policy for Teacher in Primary Schools**

1957. SHRI JAGATVIR SINGH DRONA: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are contemplating to formulate uniform policy for recruitment of teachers in schools for all the states;

(b) if so, the details of the draft proposal; and

(c) the time by which it is likely to be formulated?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT, MINISTER OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND MINISTER OF DEPARTMENT OF OCEAN DEVELOPMENT (DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI): (a) to (c) According to Section 12 (d) of the NCTE Act, 1993 the Council may lay down guidelines in respect of minimum qualifications of a person to be employed as a teacher in schools or in recognised institutions. Accordingly the Council had set up a Task Force to suggest eligibility criteria for recruitment of Teachers, Headmasters/Principals in schools.

The Task Force has made recommendations in regard to minimum academic and professional qualifications as also the selection procedures and mode of recruitment for various categories of teachers at different levels of school education. The Report of the Task Force has recently been circulated to State/UT Administrations and some experts in the field of education for eliciting their response.

[English]

#### **Hindustan Vegetable Corporation**

1958. DR. SAROJA V.: Will the Minister of FOOD AND CONSUMER AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Hindustan Vegetable Oil Corporation has given tender for packing of Pamoline Oil in Delhi;

(b) if so, the criteria fixed for selection assignment of job;

(c) whether any complaints has been received by the Government in this regard so far;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the action taken or proposed to be taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD AND CONSUMER AFFAIRS (SHRI SATYA PAL SINGH YADAV): (a) and (b) HVOC undertakes packing of palmoline on behalf of the Delhi Government. Due to recent edible oil shortage in Delhi, in order to increase supply in consumer packs, at the instance of Delhi Government., HVOC entered into agreement with private packers. Since HVOC's capacity was limited, they were asked to tie up arrangement with private packers. Availability of packers and their capacity was the main criterion for assignment of job.

(c) and (d) The Akhil Bharatiya H.V.O.C. Karamchari Mahasangh (Regd.) and H.V.O.C. Shramik Union (Regd) complained to the Government against the alleged irregularity in awarding contract to M/s. Suraj Vanaspati Ltd., by H.V.O.C.

(e) Since the arrangement was made in pursuance of decision taken by the Delhi Govt. on whose behalf the palmoline oil is being packed, the question of taking any

further action for *ipso facto* entering into such an agreement does not arise.

### **Illegal Immigrants**

1959. SHRI K.D. SULTANPURI: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of foreign citizens who entered India illegally without any passport and apprehended during the last ten month; and

(b) the names of the courts where the cases against such persons have been filed?

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI L.K. ADVANI): (a) and (b) Powers of the Central Government under the Foreigners Act, 1946 to identify, detect and deport foreign nationals residing illegally in various parts of the country have been delegated to the State Governments/Union Territory Administrations and no data in this regard is Centrally maintained. The Government is, however, aware of the problem of foreign nationals who enter India surreptitiously from neighboring countries and are residing illegally in various parts of the country. Instructions have been issued/reiterated to the State Governments/UT Administrations from time to time to intensify efforts to identify and deport foreign nationals staying in the country illegally.

### **Under Water Cultural Heritages**

1960. SHRI MADHAV RAO PATIL;  
SHRI ASHOK NAMDEORAO MOHOL.

Will the Minister of OCEAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether India has the unique distinction of having the richest underwater cultural heritage;

(b) if so, the details of marine archaeological activities undertaken during the last three years and the findings thereof;

(c) whether these underwater research activities had slowed down during the said period;

(d) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(e) the steps being taken by the Government in this direction?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT, MINISTER OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND MINISTER OF DEPARTMENT OF OCEAN DEVELOPMENT (DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI): (a) As per studies and research done, India has a rich underwater cultural heritage. However, it is not conclusively established that the underwater cultural heritage of India is the richest in the world.

(b) As per information readily available the major marine archaeological activities undertaken during the last three years include.

- (i) Marine Archaeological exploration at Poompuhar on the Tamil Nadu Coast.
- (ii) Marine Archaeological explorations off Dwarka, Bet Dwarka and Somnath.
- (iii) Marine Archaeological exploration and excavation of ship wrecks on the West Coast of India.

The findings reported in respect of the above explorations are:

#### **Poompuhar Project:**

There are several reports in the ancient literature about the existence of the port city of Poomphar in the beginning of the Christian era.

Various artefacts were retrieved from the waters like dressed stone blocks, potsherds of early historical period (300 B.C. to 300 A.D.) Geophysical explorations carried out revealed a submerged palaeochannel of the river Kaveri in the north of Poompuhar; the width of the channel varies from 300 m to 500 m and it is buried 20 m below the sea bottom.

A significant achievement of Poompuhar underwater exploration is the discovery of a large shipwreck which carried a huge quantity of lead ingots dated 1791 and 1792 A.D. and inscribed W Blackett which could be the name of the company manufacturing or dealing in lead ingots.

#### **Dwarka Explorations:**

At Dwarka a total of approx. 9,80,000 Sq. Meters coastal areas was explored between the water depth of 3 to 12 M since 1983. A number of submerged stone