

to (c). The National Policy on Education-1986 recognises the overall development of the child at the pre-primary level and envisages that all approaches should be holistic in nature and must attend to all aspects of the child's development.

Though no new scheme has been formulated, the continuing programmes aim at all aspects of the child's development by structured and unstructured play activities, play materials and learning experiences. About 12% of the total children at this level are being covered presently by the continuing schemes. Programmes that specifically focus on the early childhood education are Early Childhood Education Scheme (ECE) and Integrated Child Development Services Programme (ICDS). The Early Childhood Education scheme covers 4300 centres (each centre catering to 30-50 children) providing pre-school education to the children in the age-group 3-5 years in the nine educationally backward states of Andhra Pradesh, Assam, Bihar, Jammu & Kashmir, Madhya Pradesh, Orissa, Rajasthan, Uttar Pradesh and West Bengal. This programme is non-expanding and is slowly being merged with ICDS which has a component of pre-school education as one of the services rendered by the programme to the pre-school children. About 120 lakh children are covered by the ICDS programme and there is a steady progress in the programme every year. Currently, over hundred projects may be added to the number of 2236 projects in the Centrally Sponsored Sector and 188 projects in the State Sector that are already sanctioned in the country.

[English]

Pollution caused by Mathura Refinery

6906. SHRI ERA ANBARASU:
SHRI MANORANJAN
BHAKTA:

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the pollution caused by Mathura Refinery;

(b) if so, whether any steps have been taken to keep pollution under control; and

(c) if so, the details thereof:

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRIMATI MANEKA GANDHI): (a) The emissions and effluents from the Mathura Refinery are within the prescribed standards.

(b) and (c). The steps taken to keep the emissions and effluents within the prescribed standards include the following:

- (i) Use of low sulphur fuel in refinery furnaces and boilers to limit sulphur-dioxide emission to one tonne per hour.
- (ii) Provision of two sulphur recovery units for removal of sulphur from flue gases.
- (iii) Tall stacks for better dispersal of pollutants in the atmosphere.
- (iv) Continuous on-line monitors in all the major stacks to measure the Sulphur-dioxide levels in the stack emissions.
- (v) Regular monitoring of ambient air quality in the region by the Indian Oil Corporation and the Uttar Pradesh Pollution Control Board.
- (vi) Installation of air pollution control devices.
- (vii) Provision of full-fledged physical, chemical and biological processes for waste water collection and treatment.