

so far and what are the achievements of this scheme?

**PROF. M.G.K. MENON:** Navodaya Vidyalayas have been opened in 21 out of 27 districts in Rajasthan.

[*English*]

**PROF. N.G. RANGA:** Sir, in view of the fact that this scheme was undertaken in order to ensure that the children from the rural areas would have special preference and on top of it, the Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes also would be given special attention, would my hon. friend assure the House that these objectives would be adhered to in the review that they are going to make and ensure further development of this scheme in those districts where these schools have not been started so far?

**PROF. M.G.K. MENON:** Sir, the hon. Member has raised the question of those who are essentially disadvantaged, those who come from Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes and those who are below the poverty line. May I inform the House that 40 per cent of the children, who have been selected so far, come from the families which have income below the poverty line and 16 per cent of them are already first generation learners. We will certainly take note of this and ensure that this is even more so if the scheme is continued and enlarged.

#### **Nehru Centenary Celebration**

\*187. **SHRI RESHAM LAL JANGDE:** Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state.

(a) whether Delhi School children who participated in the Bhartiya Programme organised by Nehru Centenary Celebration Committee at Jawaharlal Stadium in November, 1989 were given track suits and P.T. shoes as a token of their participation in the programme;

(b) whether Government are aware that

the school authorities are now demanding these items back; and

(c) if so, the reasons therefor?

**THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (PROF. M.G.K. MENON):** (a) to (c). A statement is laid on the Table of the Sabha.

#### **STATEMENT**

(a) The Delhi School children, who participated in the *Bhartiyam Programme*, were given costumes which were specially designed so as to be relevant to the themes of the programmes depicted by them. These costumes included gymnastic suits, track suits, dungarees and P.T. shoes.

(b) and (c). In view of the immense popularity of the programme, Deptt. of Education, Delhi Administration propose to put up another programme in the month of April 1990 after the school examinations are over. The costumes have, therefore, been taken back from the children to be cleaned and kept in good shape and to ensure that they do not get spoiled till the programme under contemplation is over. These costumes, however, will be returned to the children after the above programme is over.

[*Translation*]

**SHRI RESHAM LAL JANGDE:** Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like know as to why the track suits and P.T. shoes are being demanded back from the students?

**PROF. M.G.K. MENON:** I have said in the reply that the track suits are being taken back from the students to be cleaned and kept in good shape as the Department of Education of Delhi Administration proposes to put up another programme in month of April. I can assure you that all these costumes will be returned to the students as

soon as the proposed programme is over.

**SHRI RESHAM LAL JANGDE:** I would like to know the actual cost of costumes distributed to the students.

**PROF. M.G.K. MENON:** The items are worth Rs. thirty one lakhs. I have a complete list with me which I can read out or if you wish, I can send it to you also.

**SHRI HARI KISHORE SINGH:** Mr. Speaker, Sir, may I ask the hon. Minister as to why all the facilities during Nehru Centenary Celebrations were given to those schools only where children from aristocratic families came to study? Secondly from which firms were the items purchased? And, is it true that rural areas were totally neglected in centenary celebrations of such a great leader. In urban areas, the municipal schools were neglected and only those schools were allowed to participate in the celebrations where children of aristocratic families came to study.

**PROF. M.G.K. MENON:** Mr. Speaker, Sir, first of all I would like to tell you that nearly twenty four thousand students of Delhi schools and more than six thousand four hundred students from other States and Union Territories participated in the Bharatiyam Programme on 14th November last year. This programme was started as part of the National Physical Fitness Scheme in 1987. Therefore students were selected only from those schools which had participated earlier also in these programmes. The programme included Kalari Payattu of Kerala, Chhau, Lazium, Yoga, rope and pole, Malkhamb and many other things.

**SHRI HARI KISHORE SINGH:** Mr. Speaker, Sir, my question was whether it is true that rural areas were neglected in this celebration and where from all the items were purchased?

**PROF. M.G.K. MENON:** Mr. Speaker, Sir, I have a complete list of items with me and the firms from which they were purchased.

**SHRI HARI KISHORE SINGH:** Mr. Speaker, Sir, my question is whether rural areas were neglected?

[*English*]

**PROF. M.G.K. MENON:** I can only point out that this was scheme which had been started, as I said, as part of the National Physical Fitness Scheme in 1987. There were many schools which were part of it. Therefore, there was a programme which was organised... (*Interruptions*)

**MR. SPEAKER:** You can give a notice for separate question afterwards. Please take your seat.

**DR. RAM CHANDRA DOME:** Sir, I would like to know from the hon. Minister, what was the total budget for celebration ceremony of this great patriot, Shri Jawaharlal Nehru held throughout the year.

I would also like to know whether the Government is thinking of holding national celebrations for other national stalwarts?

**PROF. M.G.K. MENON:** The total expenditure on the Bharatiyam which was organised on the 14th November last year was essentially Rs. 2,38,85,364. The bulk of the expenditure was essentially on the transportation and charges for refreshment and so on of outstation participants costing about Rs. 3 lakhs and boarding and lodging Rs. 47 lakhs.

[*Translation*]

**SHRI RAM NAIK:** Mr. Speaker, Sir, the school authorities are demanding back P.T. shoes and track suits given to the students. I would like to know whether the students were told about this beforehand? Does the Government think it proper to take back items like P.T. shoes from the students after four-five months.

**PROF. M.G.K. MENON:** All I can say is that we are not taking back these items,

instead they will be cleaned up and returned to the students.

**SHRI MADAN LAL KHURANA:** Is it possible to clean P.T. shoes?

**PROF. M.G.K. MENON:** I am talking about all the equipment in general. (*Interruptions*)

[*English*]

**Computer-Assisted Sanskrit Teaching and Learning Project**

+  
\*188. **SHRI L.K. ADVANI:**  
**SHRI SHANKERSINH VAGHELA:**

Will the **PRIME MINISTER** be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Sanskrit Vidya Peeth and the Jawaharlal Nehru University with the support of Department of Electronics are working on the project Computer-assisted Sanskrit Teaching and Learning;

(b) if so, the progress made so far in each of the institutions; and

(c) the estimated expenditure on the project and in what way Sanskrit teaching and learning would be helpful by the work being so done?

**THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (PROF. M.G.K. MENON):** (a) to (c). A Statement is laid on the Table of Lok Sabha.

**STATEMENT**

(a) The project on development of "Computer Assisted Sanskrit Teaching/Learning Environment" was started at Jawaharlal Nehru University (JNU) in June,

1988 and at Lal Bahadur Shastri Kendriya Sanskrit Vidyapeeth in November, 1989.

(b) Nucleus Software System has been designed which would be used in implementing the Teaching/Learning lessons and exercises. Further, two lessons have been designed; one deals with teaching alphabets and their properties and another deals with Sandhis.

(c) Total estimated expenditure of the project at the two institutions is Rs. 10.9 lakhs.

These proposed software packages would be available as supplementary instructional aids to facilitate drill and practice, and remedial exercises relating to sentence/text structure, vocabulary, comprehension, production and evaluation. The packages are expected to improve Sanskrit language studies and to open up new avenues for linguistic research.

**SHRI L.K. ADVANI:** It was five years back that certain articles appeared in various journals that NASA Army Research Centre and some of the experts in the field of computer technology have reported that a 20 years research for a human language which can meet computer's needs has ended in discovering Sanskrit as being ideally suited for that purpose. I recall that my colleague put a question in this regard in the other House and in reply to which the Government answered that they were aware of this discovery but more research was necessary before this hypothesis can be supported or rejected.

My first question is whether Government of India has made any research in this regard because I would think that this is a matter in which we should be more interested than any other country of the world and because if this is true then it opens up vast potential in so far as creating software in this country for export of the whole world is concerned and so my first question relates to what follow-up action has been taken in pursuance of this discovery and the assur-