

whether, in a large scale plant set up for research, if somebody grows wild marigold on a commercial basis with a high yield, oil extraction can be done there or not. Is any service facility available to such persons or not? What I have said is that this would be a facility which can be set up in the cooperative sector and this is precisely the aspect which is currently under the consideration of CSIR.

[*Translation*]

### **Curtailment in Budget Allocations for Education**

\*456. DR. MAHADEEPAK SINGH SHAKYA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state

(a) whether there has been continuous curtailment in the budget allocations for education during the last three years and consequent slowing down in the pace of progress of education; and

(b) if so, the reasons therefor?

[*English*]

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) The plan budget of the Education Departments of Central and State Governments has increased from Rs. 1097 crores in 1986-87 to Rs. 2374 crores in 1989-90.

(b) Does not arise.

[*Translation*]

DR. MAHADEEPAK SINGH SHAKYA:

Mr. Speaker, Sir, the hon. Minister has stated in his reply that the plan Budget of the Education Departments of Central and State Governments has increased from Rs. 1097 crores in 1986-87 to Rs. 2374 crores in 1989-90. This is true but the budget allocation is slightly more than 2 per cent of the total Budget allocation. Whenever the issue of progress of Education is raised, either a Committee or a Commission is set up. The Kothari Commission had submitted a report in which it was recommended that not less than 6 per cent of the total Budget be spent on Education. Therefore, I would like to know what steps are being taken to implement the recommendations of the Kothari Commission?

[*English*]

PROF. M.G.K. MENON: As you are aware, the Kothari Commission report is now more than two decades old. We are, therefore, in a new situation. As you are also aware, we have had a very extensive debate as a result of which we had what is called the National Policy on Education, 1986. But this Policy will now be reviewed and we will see what should be done.

With regard to the basic point made by the hon. Member, I am in full agreement with him. Education should have the highest priority. It is what creates the human resources of this country. However, I would also like to provide some information that what we are talking of is outlays on education and in the National Policy on Education, 1986, what was stated is that in the 8th Plan and beyond, this will uniformly exceed six per cent of the national income. The Central Statistical Organization has recently released the figures regarding estimated national income for 1988-89 which places this figure, NNP at Rs. 306822 crores at current prices. And if you compare the Budget for education as a percentage of this, it comes to 4.2 per cent for 1989-90. But then this is certainly below

what we should aim for and I would hope that the hon. Finance Minister would ensure that this happens in due course.

[Translation]

**DR. MAHADEEPAK SINGH SHAKYA:** Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to know whether the growth of population has also been kept in view while making the Budget allocation for education. Will the Budget allocation for Education be reviewed every year in view of annual growth of population?

[English]

**PROF. M.G.K. MENON:** We have certainly put forward our requirements, but on the other hand, as you know we have already had presentation of the Budget for the current year and with the constraint on resources, one has certainly not been able to get what we would have certainly liked to get. But we would like to ensure and this is where the review of the National Policy on Education, 1986 comes in that every rupee spent actually reaches the beneficiaries to the maximum extent, and that the system is efficient, and it goes to the sectors which have been highest priority, which means elementary education, literacy, girls' education, vocationalization etc.

[Translation]

**SHRI YUVRAJ:** Mr. Speaker, Sir, through you, I would like to know what will be the impact of the gradual decrease in the Education Budget. Our primary motive is to eradicate illiteracy prevailing among the rural masses, particularly who are poor and resourceless. Thus the decrease in Education Budget will have a direct impact on the rural population; it will become difficult to educate them under these circumstances

[English]

**PROF. M.G.K. MENON:** I would like to correct the impression that there has been a decrease. Let me give you the figures. From 1986-87, as far as the total Central plus States put together, Budget on education is concerned, on the Plan side, it has gone up from Rs. 1097 crores to Rs. 1831 crores, then Rs. 1848 crores and Rs. 2374 crores. Similarly, in respect of non-Plan, it has gone up from Rs. 7049 crores to Rs. 7982 crores and then to Rs. 9482 crores to Rs. 11245 crores. It has, therefore, gone up steadily. However, I am with the Member in the sense that the total amount required all that we wish to have is inadequate, and he has certainly identified an extremely important area relating to the disadvantaged group, rural areas and literacy programme. As you are aware, this year is declared as the international literacy year and we have a major effort with regard to literacy. This is being attempted through non-formal education, through Operation Blackboard, through the Adult Education programmes which are essentially to ensure that functional literacy will be given to 80 million illiterate adults in age group 15 to 35 by 1995 with the focus on the rural area, on women and persons belonging to Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes.

**DR. BIPLAB DASGUPTA:** May I know from the Minister whether there has been a reduction in the allocation for the adult education programmes of the universities by the UGC? I understand that there has been a 20 per cent decline in the amount given to the universities in this international year of literacy. May I know what is the position in this regard?

**PROF. M.G.K. MENON:** Sir, the actual amount has not decreased but the increase is not what was expected.