

PROF. K.K. TEWARY : The whole world is laughing at them.

SHRI K.C. PANT : We both have a good sense of humour.

[*Translation*]

**Increase in Literacy in Adivasi Areas**

\*224 SHRI DILEEP SINGH BHURIA : Will the Minister of EDUCATION be pleased to state :

(a) the percentage of increase in literacy in Adivasi areas during the Sixth Five Year Plan ;

(b) whether the increase conforms to the targets fixed; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor ?

[*English*]

THE MINISTER FOR EDUCATION (SHRI K. C. PANT) : (a) to (c). Literacy rate in the country is measured only through the census conducted once in ten years by the Registrar General of India. The last census was held in 1981 and the next census falls due in 1991. The literacy rate among scheduled tribes population has increased from 11.30% in 1971 to 16.35 in 1981. Increase in literacy rate between 1981 and 1991 will be known when the 1991 census is conducted.

While no target has been fixed, the Sixth Five Year Plan document envisaged eradication of illiteracy by 1990.

[*Translation*]

SHRI DILEEP SINGH BHURIA : Mr. Speaker, Sir, the hon. Minister has stated that a large amount is being spent for providing education to the children in the tribal areas, but the expected results have not been achieved so far. I would like to ask the hon. Minister the reasons therefore. In tribal areas schools are there these days, but teachers and buildings are not there. A child is admitted in the First standard he studies upto fifth class and thereafter there are no arrangements for further education. These children are also part of the national mainstream. I would

like to urge the hon. Minister that deficiency, if any, in the Sixth Plan may be rectified in the Seventh Plan. I would like to ask the hon. Minister whether he has any scheme to spread literacy among the tribal people.

SHRI K.C. PANT : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I fully agree with the hon. Member that special emphasis must be given on importing education in the tribal areas. But if information is supplied to me about such schools where education is not being imparted properly, I shall make all possible efforts to set the thing right. So far as schools in the tribal areas are concerned, I have got the information that wherever Ashram type schools have been opened, the children go to those Ashram schools. In addition to good education, attendance is also good and their results are also not poor. So far as non-formal education is concerned, the Centre provides grant to many States for the purposes. The Centre provides separate grants for adult education. The Ministry of Home Affairs have got their Tribal Sub-Plans and the Ministry of Education have also got their Tribal Sub-Plans. Aid is provided for education through all these methods.

SHRI DILEEP SINGH BHURIA : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I fully agree with the hon. Minister that aid is provided for their education. He has also stated that wherever Ashram schools exist, the students can get education there by living together. I have with me the report of the S.C. and S.T. Commissioner for the year 1981-82 in which it has been stated that the huts of the tribal people are quite scattered. The entire funds for the Tribal Sub-Plans are spent through the state Governments. I would like to ask the hon. Minister whether he would bring this subject on the Concurrent List and make provision in the Seventh Five Year Plan for providing education to the tribal people through Central schools on Ashram pattern ?

SHRI K.C. PANT : The Government would consider this suggestion.

(English)

**SHRI V. SOBHANA DREESWARA RAO :** The Minister has told us that only 16 per cent of the Adibasi are literate. At the same time, he says that by 1990 hundred per cent literacy will be achieved, which appears to be quite far away. Will the Government consider the supply of text-books and provision of mid-day meals to the Adibasi children so that their percentage of literacy may increase ?

**SHRI K.C. PANT :** 100 per cent literacy by 1990 is the aim of the Sixth Plan. We have to make a serious effort to reach that target. The tribal population is about 7.76 per cent of the total population. But one has to make a special effort for the disadvantaged sections, particularly for women. The girls are even further behind in literacy than the boys. One small fact that I would like to bring to your notice is that this 15 per cent. includes the children from the ages of 0—4. That is a marginal point but it will increase the percentage somewhat if these 0—4 age group children are left out of the calculation.

Now, as far as the mid-day meal scheme is concerned, this is provided and it is one of the incentives that has been provided under the 20 point programme for the tribal population. In the schools there are other incentives also provided to them. But in spite of that there are certain constraints one of which is the scattered population and the need for some kind of schools within easy walking distance of these habitations, and the other is the fact that the parental encouragement to the children to go to school for the first generation goes is not as much as it is in other areas. Taking into account these factors, other incentives also have to be provided. So, I recognise the need for additional incentives. These additional incentives include free text books free stationery, for uniform, mid-day meals, scholarships and freeships and compensation to the parents also because when these children have to go to schools, they are not available for work. That

is the idea that also has to be kept in mind.

**SHRIMATI PHULRENU GUHA :** I would like to know from the hon. Minister, what is the percentage of literacy among the Advivasi women and whether any special strategy has been formulated to educate them.

**SHRI K.C. PANT :** Among the Adivasi women, the percentage of literacy is 8.04 per cent. Among men it is 24.59 per cent. Actually special assistance is given to the educationally backward States for the education of women and for the arrangement of women teachers so that the girls can go to the schools. Many families do not like to send the girls to the schools which have only male teachers. For the adult education programme meant only for women also the State gives one hundred per cent assistance in the educationally backward States.

(Translation)

#### Improvements in Capital Express Train

\*225. **SHRI D.L. BAITHA :** Will the Minister of RILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Capital Express running between Danapur and Katihar is the only train which links North Bihar with the State Capital Patna;

(b) if so, whether the number of passenger coaches in this train is very inadequate and the coaches are in dilapidated conditions;

(c) whether normally the first class compartments are not attached with it and their maintenance is also very poor;

(d) whether steam engine is being used for hauling this train which invariably breaks down on the way and the train rarely runs on time;

(e) if so, whether Government propose to run more trains for North Bihar from the Capital, increase the number of coaches in the Capital Express, improve their proper maintenance and provide a diesel engine for hauling it; and