

(ii) both countries will exchange sports teams in the disciplines to be mutually agreed upon.

Spread of Hindi in Sikkim

***258. SHRIMATI D.K. BHANDARI :**
Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :
(a) whether Government are aware that the people of Sikkim are keen to learn Hindi and that Nepali, which is spoken by almost cent per cent of the State population, and Hindi have common Devenagari script;

(b) if so, the steps taken by the Central Hindi Directorate for the spread of Hindi in Sikkim; and

(c) whether there is any proposal to set up a Hindi Library at Gangtok for the benefit of the local people?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF EDUCATION AND CULTURE (SHRIMATI SUSHILA ROHATGI) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) & (c) A statement is given below.

Statement

(b) The Central Hindi Directorate is operating a scheme of teaching Hindi through correspondence courses to all the non-Hindi speaking Indians and foreigners. This facility is also available to the people of Sikkim. The Directorate also conducts correspondence courses for coaching in Hindi for those IAS candidates of north-eastern states/union territories who opt for Hindi as a compulsory paper on Indian language. Last year 4 candidates from Sikkim availed of this facility. Under one of its extension programmes, a teacher from Gangtok Senior Secondary School, Sadam, was invited to participate in the neo-Hindi writers' workshop held at Hyderabad/Madras.

Under the scheme of free distribution of Hindi books in non-Hindi speaking areas, Hindi books are being sent to a

Kendriya Vidyalaya, Gangtok for the last many years.

All the above schemes being operated by Central Hindi Directorate are advertised every year through the leading newspapers and AIR Gangtok.

(c) While there is no such proposal at present, Government of India would be willing to consider favourably suggestion in this behalf made either by the State Govt. of Sikkim or by any competent voluntary organisation.

Review of working of integrated child development services programmes

***259 SHRI SHANTI DHARIWAL :
SHRI VISHNU MODI :**

Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state : (a) whether Government have conducted any survey of the working of Integrated Child Development Service (ICDS) Programmes being run by Government and if so, the outcome thereof;

(b) whether Government have received such reports that destitute children are not getting benefits of these schemes and that the money sanctioned for these schemes is being misused; and

(c) if so, the action taken by Government so far to make these schemes successful and to punish the persons responsible for the misuse of funds?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS AND WOMEN'S WELFARE (SHRIMATI MARGARET ALVA) :

(a) Government have had survey conducted by independent agencies to evaluate the working of the Integrated Child Development Services (ICDS) programme. These evaluations have revealed that ICDS projects have had a very positive effect in the development blocks where they have been introduced.

(b) Destitute children do not fall within the purview of ICDS scheme. No case of misuse of Central grants for ICDS has