

[English]

Holidays in Educational Institutions

*334. SHRI JAGANNATH PATNAIK:
Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether any study has been conducted regarding the closed holidays for the educational institutions in other countries;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether schools and colleges in India remain closed for long intervals during the year as compared to schools and colleges in other countries; and

(d) if so, the reaction of Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF EDUCATION AND CULTURE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI L.P. SHAHI): (a) to (d). According to information available, closed holidays are observed in the educational institutions of U.K. for about two weeks each during Easter and Christmas and five weeks during Summer. Vacation intervals in India aggregate to about eleven weeks in a year. Considering the climatic conditions in the country this cannot be considered to be on the high side. The number of teaching days in educational institutions in most countries ranges between 160 and 220. Government of India are fully conscious of the need for maximising the number of effective days of teaching in a year. The concerned agencies have also issued instructions to educational institutions in this regard. The number of effective teaching days stipulated by these agencies in their guidelines compare favourably with those obtaining in other countries.

Biological Study of Tribals

*336. SHRI BRAJAMOHAN MOHANTY:
Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether any study has been made to locate biological reasons of dwindling population of some of tribals in Orissa and if so, the details thereof;

(b) whether any steps have been taken to prevent extinction of such tribals; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (KUMARI SAROJ KHAPARDE): (a). No specific biological study has been made at the instance of the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare.

(b) and (c). Do not arise.

Ernakulam -- Alleppey and Alleppey -- Kayamkulam Railway Line

*337. SHRIMATI GEETA MUKHERJEE:
Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that due to paucity of funds, the work on the Ernakulam-Alleppey and Alleppey-Kayamkulam sectors of the Railway line under construction, is progressing very slowly;

(b) to what extent the work has progressed on these lines; and

(c) the likely time by which these lines would be completed and commissioned?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MAHABIR PRASAD): (a) The work on these lines is being progressed according to availability of resources. In the case of Alleppey-Kayamkulam line, there has also been some delay on the part of the State Government in acquisition of land required for the project

(b) The present progress is as under—

New Line	Cumulative Progress
Ernakulam-Alleppey	47%
Alleppey-Kayamkulam	11%