

(b) The Festival of India in USSR has created an awareness in the Soviet mind of Indian cultural heritage along with its contemporary development and achievements. The reciprocal Festival of USSR in India, will reflect USSR's cultural and social ethos and accomplishments as well as its scientific and technological progress. These Festivals have generated enormous enthusiasm and appreciation on a very large scale among both the peoples.

[*Translation*]

### **Control over Privately Managed Public Schools**

\*50. SHRI BALWANT SINGH RAMMOOWALIA:  
SHRI VIJAY N. PATIL:

Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the number of so-called Public Schools in Delhi and other cities, which are privately owned/managed, is continuously increasing;

(b) whether Government are aware of oft-repeated complaints against these schools about various irregularities such as charging excessive fees, payment of less salaries and absence of other minimum educational facilities;

(c) if so, whether Government propose to bring forward any law to bring these schools under Government control; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF EDUCATION AND CULTURE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI L.P. SHAHI): (a) It is not clear what is intended by "so-called Public Schools". However, the

number of schools affiliated to Indian Public Schools' Conference is 57 and its number has not increased in the last few years.

(b) to (d). School education is primarily looked after by the State Governments concerned. In Delhi the schools are regulated by the provisions of the Delhi School Education Act, 1973 which is proposed to be further strengthened by suitable amendments. The concerned State agencies regulate schools in their states suitably. When any specific case of malpractice is brought before the educational authorities, remedial action as provided under rules and regulations is taken.

### **Cancellation of Passenger Trains**

\*51. SHRI ANANDA PATHAK:  
SHRI R.P. DAS:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether some passenger trains were cancelled during the last two months;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefore; and

(c) the measures taken to avoid such cancellations and to restore the cancelled trains?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA): (a) and (b). Yes, Sir. Due to seasonal drop in passenger traffic during the winter months, transportation of essential commodities and drought relief materials, and other operational reasons, about 15 pairs of trains have been temporarily suspended.

(c) Most of the cancelled trains will be restored in the summer time table.