

tion Programme, Special Rice Production Programme and Intensive Cotton Development Programme. Some State Governments are also distributing seed through Government depots.

Banerjee Committee on Pesticide Use

*852. DR. G. VJAYA RAMA RAO:
DR. B.L. SHAILESH:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have finalised its decision on the reports of Banerjee Committee received in 1986 and 1987;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether these reports have been made public; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI BHAJAN LAL): (a) The Expert Committee under the Chairmanship of Dr. S.N. Banerjee submitted in 1986 and 1987 two reports covering six pesticides. A decision has been taken in respect of BHC.

(b) The Government has decided that:

(i) Use of BHC in agriculture and public health restricted to the present level;

(ii) The manufacturing capacity of BHC may be frozen at the present level;

(iii) Use of BHC on vegetables and fruits, oilseed crops and for preservation of grains, pulses, etc. should be restricted.

(c) and (d). The question of making the

reports public would be decided by the Government after decisions are taken on all the reports.

Closure of Iron Ore Mines

*853. SHRI CHINTAMANI JENA: Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether a large number of iron ore mines have been forced to close down and there has been reduction in the strength of mine workers;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the steps being taken to solve this problem and to ensure that the production of iron ore does not decline in the coming years?

THE MINISTER OF ENERGY (SHRI VASANT SATHE) (a) There are numerous iron ore mines in the country. Ministry of Steel and Mines does not maintain information regarding private iron ore mines in the country. Some iron ore mines have been reported to have closed down in Bihar and Orissa.

(b) Specific reasons for closure of each mine are not known. However, the international market for iron ore was depressed over the past few years, and consequently the total export quantity declined by about 4 million tonnes in 1987-88 as compared to the previous year. This compelled MMTC to reduce off-take from the Bihar-Orissa sector during 1988-89, which may have affected some of the mines which were wholly dependent on export purchases by MMTC.

(c) Private iron ore mines in the country largely cater to the export market through the agency of MMTC. Over the last few years, the international iron ore market was depressed. However, there has been a signifi-

cant improvement in the international iron ore market recently due to an up swing in the steel industry world-wide; consequently export quantities improved during 1988-89 and increased order have been booked for 1989-90.

Implementation of Three-Language Formula in Kendriya Vidyalayas

*854. DR. SUDHIR ROY:
SHRIMATI GEETA MUKHER-
JEE:

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

(a) whether Government propose to make any changes in the 3-Language Formula for Kendriya Vidyalayas during academic session 1989-90 as compared to the formula given effect to during 1988-89; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI P. SHIV SHANKER): (a) and (b). All the Kendriya Vidyalayas are affiliated to the Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE). As such they follow the scheme of studies prescribed by the CBSE. The CBSE revised its scheme of studies for Secondary Classes in September 1988 requiring study of Hindi, English and a modern Indian language up to Class X. Sanskrit was to be studied as part of Hindi 'A' level course. The Kendriya Vidyalayas started implementing this scheme of studies in 1988-89. However, in a petition filed before the Supreme Court has passed an interim Order on 17.3.1989 restraining the CBSE from implementing its revised scheme of studies. Pursuant to this directive of the Court the Kendriya Vidyalayas have been instructed to restore the position regarding teaching of languages as it obtained before September, 1983.

Waiver of Interest on Loans given to Agro Service Centres

*855. SHRI M. RAGHUMA REDDY:
Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether in 1982 there was a proposal to direct the Commercial Bank to waive the interest charges on the loans to Agro Service Centres to mitigate the hardship faced by Agro entrepreneurs connected with the Agro Service Centres scheme;

(b) if so, whether the interest has since been waived off by the Commercial Banks; and

(c) if not, the follow up action taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI BHAJAN LAL): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) It was decided after consideration not to issue a general direction to banks to waive off interest as banks cannot afford to write off interest uniformly in all cases.

(c) The Supreme Court has directed the Government of India to submit a considered scheme to them in consultation with all the parties to resolve the problem in a reasonable manner.

Opening of Kendriya Vidyalayas during Eighth Plan Period

*856. SHRI B.B. RAMAIAH: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the approximate number of Kendriya Vidyalayas, with and without hostel facilities separately for boys and girls, which are expected to be opened during the Eighth Five Year Plan period; and