

(b) Does not arise.

(c) A traffic-cum-final location survey for construction of the 2nd phase of Jakhpura-Banspani rail link, i.e. between Daitari and Keonjhar is in progress. The execution of the project will depend on the results of the survey, subject to its clearance by the Planning Commission and availability of resources. The third phase will be considered only after taking a decision on second phase of the project.

[Translation]

Norms for Opening of PHCs and Maternity and Child Welfare Centres in Seventh Plan

*84. SHRI HARISH RAWAT : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is a proposal to relax the present norms laid down for opening Primary Health Centres, and Maternity and Child Welfare Centres in hill areas in the country during the Seventh Five Year Plan ;

(b) if not, whether Government are aware that a large number of persons in hill areas in Uttar Pradesh are not still getting the necessary medical facility due to lesser number of such Primary Health Centres there on account of geographical factors ; and

(c) if so, the remedial steps being taken therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI MOHSINA KIDWAI) : (a) to (c). The norms for the establishment of Primary Health Centres and sub-centres in hilly and tribal areas have already been relaxed. Primary Health Centres and sub-centres also cater to Maternal and Child Health Care. However, the number of Primary Health Centres required on the basis of the relaxed norms have not yet been established. It is proposed to establish all the Primary Health Centres on the basis of the relaxed norms during the 7th Five Year Plan. This will ensure availability of health services within the easy reach of the hilly population.

[English]

Retrenchment of Casual Workers in Eastern and South Eastern Railways

*85. SHRI SAIFUDDIN
CHOUDHARY :

SHRI NARAYAN CHOUBEY :

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that the casual employees in the Railways especially in the Eastern and South Eastern railways are being retrenched ;

(b) the policy and procedure adopted to appoint them ; and

(c) the number of casual workers retrenched and how the Government are going to redress their grievances ?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BANSI LAL) : (a) and (c). Casual labour are engaged on railway for work of seasonal, casual or intermittent nature as also for the execution of railway projects. They are engaged and discharged in accordance with the requirements of work arising from time to time. Thus engagement of such labour when work requires their engagement and their retrenchment when work is not available, is a continuous process.

In Malda Division of Eastern Railway one lot of 392 casual labour were engaged in the last quarter of 1984 for certain works. On review of the requirements of work they were discharged in the first week of Jan. '85. In the light of representations received in this connection and in the context of the working season, to speed up the tempo of work, instructions were given to Eastern Railway to re-engage the casual labour. The Railway has taken action accordingly. Further, on the N.F. Railway about 140 casual workers were engaged for certain works in the Malda area during the last quarter of 1984. They were discharged in the first week of Jan. '85. In this case also, they have been taken back by the N.F. Railway in view of the working season and

necessity to speed up the urgent works in this area and its vicinity.

There has been no such large scale re-trenchment in the recent past on the South Eastern Railway.

(b) As stated above, casual labour are engaged for work of casual intermittent or seasonal nature and also for execution of railway projects. Generally such labour is engaged locally but where the circumstances so warrant labour from outside is also so engaged. Detailed instructions have been issued by the Ministry of Railways regarding the engagement, terms of employment, retrenchment and absorption in regular employment of casual labour.

Delinking of Degrees from Jobs

*86. SHRI K.T KOSALRAM : Will the Minister of EDUCATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government propose to delink degrees from jobs ; if so, the steps taken in this regard ; and

(b) whether the proposal also includes selective admission to higher studies ?

THE MINISTER OF EDUCATION (SHRI K.C. PANT) : (a) and (b). In higher education, with a view to reduce pressure for expansion and promote excellence, the possibility of delinking degrees from recruitment to jobs, and introduction of entrance tests for admission to higher studies is under examination. No decision on these measures has so far been taken.

Non-Formal and Elementary Education

*87. SHRIMATI MADHURI SINGH : Will the Minister of EDUCATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that the problem of school dropouts in several States had obstructed the spread of non-formal education and introduction of elementary level education ; and

(b) if so, the steps proposed to be taken

by Government to bring about improvement in the situation ?

THE MINISTER OF EDUCATION (SHRI K.C. PANT) : (a) High drop-out rates are obstructing the spread of elementary education in many States. Non-formal education is being developed as an alternate supportive system to formal elementary education for school dropouts and non-enrolled children.

(b) A statement is laid on the Table of the Sabha.

Statement

1. 'Elementary Education' has been accorded a high priority in 'Education' under the Sixth Five Year Plan. It has been included in the Minimum Needs Programme (MNP) of the Plan. It has also been included in the new Twenty Point Programme of the Government. According to the Policy Frame of the Sixth Five Year Plan, Universalisation of Elementary Education is proposed to be achieved by 1990.

2. School education, particularly elementary education, is basically the responsibility of the States and mostly managed by them. Figures for the year 1979-80 show that 59.8% of children dropout of the school system by the end of primary stage and 76.6% by the end of middle stage. Such high rates of drop out pose a serious problem in many States in achieving the goal of universal elementary education. For reducing the school dropouts in the context of universalisation of elementary education, the suggestions made to the States, include introduction of ungraded school system and no-detention policy coupled with a system of continuous assessment, till the children complete class VIII and mobilisation of community support to ensure regular attendance. States also operate incentive programmes for children of disadvantaged groups and other weaker sections. Efforts are also being made to offer context oriented education which is relevant to the needs, life situations, and environments of the children living in diverse areas of the country. This is expected to arouse the interest of children in education.