

3. As the main strategy for covering out of school children, both non-starters and dropouts, a non-formal part time education system is being developed in a large way. Under a Centrally sponsored scheme of Non-formal Education for elementary age group children, Ministry of Education gives special assistance on a 50 : 50 sharing basis for running non-formal education centres to 9 educationally backward States, viz., Andhra Pradesh, Assam, Bihar, Jammu and Kashmir, Madhya Pradesh, Orissa, Rajasthan, Uttar Pradesh and West Bengal. This scheme has been liberalised from 1983-84 under which assistance on 90 : 10 sharing basis is given to these States for opening non-formal education centres exclusively for girls. Voluntary Organisations in the 9 educationally backward States are also given assistance on 100% basis for running non-formal education centres. For production of teaching-learning materials under the Non-formal Education Programme, commodity assistance in the form of paper has been given to most of the States and UTs. In the context of Universalisation of Elementary Education, Non-formal Education Programme is expected to play a bigger role in the 7th Five Year Plan, which is still under formulation.

**Special U.G.C. Scholarships for Under-Graduate Science Students**

\*88. SHRI SATYENDRA NARAYAN SINHA :

SHRI CHINTAMANI JENA :

Will the Minister of EDUCATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether the University Grants Commission has proposed a scheme of 100 special scholarships of Rs. 20.0 per month each to particularly promising students at undergraduate level in science ;

(b) if so, details of the scheme ; and

(c) if not, what other schemes U.G.C. have to promote excellence in science education ?

**THE MINISTER OF EDUCATION (SHRI K.C. PANT) :** (a) The University

Grants Commission has instituted a scheme of 100 scholarships of Rs. 200 (Rs. two hundred) per month for students in undergraduate courses in science subjects.

(b) and (c). The scholarships are offered to students who qualify in the National Talent Search Examination conducted by the National Council for Educational Research and Training (NCERT). Only those students who pursue an undergraduate course in Physical Sciences, Biological Sciences, Earth Sciences or Home Science are eligible for these scholarships.

**Metro and Circular Railways in Calcutta**

\*89. SHRI AMAR ROYPRADHAN : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) what is the latest position of the construction of Metro and Circular railways in Calcutta ;

(b) the reasons for the delay in the completion of the above projects ; and

(c) whether Government propose to sanction enough funds for the completion of the said projects speedily ?

**THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BANSI LAL) :** (a) Two part sections of the Metro Railway, one from Esplanade to Bhowanipur covering a length of 3.5 Kms and other from Dum Dum to Belgachia covering a length of 2.2 Kms have been opened for commercial services as a single line section. Regarding circular railway, 10 Km. length of the alignment from Prinsep Ghat to Ulta Danga has been opened for commercial services as a single line section with trains hauled by diesel locomotives.

(b) The work on both the projects is progressing according to schedule.

(c) Funds are allotted by Planning Commission depending upon the resources of the Government, which are assessed from year to year.

**Allotment of Wagons for Movement of Salt in Gujarat**

\*90. SHRI NAVIN RAVANI : Will

the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the salt manufacturers of Saurashtra and Kutch region of Gujarat State are in a precarious position on account of highly inadequate and irregular supply of wagons for movement of salt from various salt producing centres to different destinations in the country due to which a large quantity of salt has been accumulated at the site ;

(b) what is the monthly requirement of wagons of salt manufacturers in Saurashtra

region ;

(c) the number of wagons supplied every month ; and

(d) what steps are being taken to allot more wagons for shifting the salt from salt fields in Gujarat ?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BANSI LAL) : (a) No, Sir. Supply/loading of salt from Saurashtra and Kutch areas was maintained at a higher level in 1984 as compared to previous two years as would be seen from the following figures :

Year	Loading (in terms of 4-wheeler wagons)		
	Broad Gauge	Metre Gauge	Total
1982	43918	33083	77001
1983	45614	29044	74658
1984	46353	31416	77769

(b) and (c). On an average, monthly requirement as per indents placed is of the order of 5331 wagons both on BG and MG system ; against this the actual loading has been 4471 wagons. The wagon requirements include an element of speculative indents during peak loading months from January to April and October to December when competitive demands for wagons exist. This would be evident from the fact that indents for 3609 wagons were cancelled in Saurashtra area alone when wagon supply was easy during the lean months May to September 1984.

(d) Following steps have also been taken to further improve loading of salt from the area :

(i) quoting of concessional train load freight rates to encourage rake loading leading to improvement in the availability of wagons.

(ii) continuous monitoring of salt loading by close liaison with the trade and the salt Commissioner to keep up

despatches, in particular to difficult areas like the North Eastern region, North Bihar, Chitpur, etc.

[Translation]

Issue of Rail Passes to Freedom Fighters

\*91. SHRI VIJAY KUMAR YADAV : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government had stopped issuing card passes to freedom fighters to finalise the modalities therefor ;

(b) if so, the time by which Government propose to issue card passes again to freedom fighters ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MADHAV RAO SCINDIA) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The matter is still under examination in the Ministry of Home Affairs.