

duties. And they operate within different parameters. As far as claims are concerned, I can give hon. Member details of how many claims have been processed and how many claims have been paid. At present, the institution of Ad hoc Claims Commissioner is considered adequate. However, we do find that despite several reminders to the State Governments, they are very tardy by and large in appointing ad-hoc Claims Commissioners. In fact, through the hon. Members of this House, I would like to make a request to the State Government to kindly respond immediately. We have to send two reminders or three reminders and many days are lost before the ad hoc Claims Commissioner is appointed in most of the cases.

SHRI P KOLANDAIVELU: We have responded immediately.

Computer Courses in schools

*866 SHRI UTTAM RATHOD: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether in the light of the recommendation of a committee set up by the Union Government, it is proposed to draw up a scheme to facilitate introduction of Computer course in schools all over the country;

(b) whether Union Government also propose to furnish necessary equipment to the schools; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

[Translation]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF EDUCATION AND CULTURE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI-MATI KRISHNA SAHI): (a) Central Government had set up in February 1985 a Committee to consider the desirability and feasibility of introduction of an elective subject in computer science at +2 level. The Committee suggested that an elective

course in computer science may be designed and students permitted to opt for it. The recommendations of the Committee were circulated among all the State Governments. The Central Government is not contemplating any scheme to introduce computer courses in schools all over the country.

(b) and (c) Do not arise

[English]

SHRI UTTAM RATHOD: In the last sentence it is said that the Central Government is not contemplating any scheme to introduce computer courses in schools all over the country. Are we to infer that the Central Government intends to start these courses in only schools selected by them?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT AND MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI P V NARASIMHA RAO): The question concerns with regular +2 courses in all the schools of India. And the answer is that we have no such scheme. We have a scheme called the Computer Literacy Project which has been properly phased and in a few years time the idea is to have all the higher secondary schools covered by the Computer Literacy Project. That is a totally different project and it has nothing to do with a regular +2 course at the +2 level.

On the Class Project I could give information because it is available. We are working on it. About 1,200 to 1,500 schools are going to be covered this year. So, that way the phasing of the Class Project can be given but since we have not decided on anything about a particular computer course to be introduced in the schools, the answer is in the negative. The CBSE, for instance, has introduced a course in some of the schools. We are evaluating it. It has been found to be fairly satisfactory. But to replicate it in all the thousands of schools, the financial outlay will be almost prohibitive at the moment. So, we will have to be very careful in introducing these things. But I could certainly assure the House that

so far as the Class Project is concerned, and the Computer Literacy Project is concerned, we do want at a particular level to cover the entire country.

SHRI UTTAM RATHOD: Sir, here in the fourth line they have said, "The recommendations of the Committee were circulated among all the States" I would like to know what does the Central Government expect from the State Governments.

SHRI P.V. NARASIMHA RAO: Sir, we expect some State Governments, if they are so interested, to introduce these courses. They have been found to be, more or less, satisfactory. Naturally there will be lot of improvement as we go along, but we have no programme, we have no scheme to introduce this course in the entire country. As I said, CBSE has tried in some schools. Now we have passed on the recommendations of this Committee to the State Governments so that if they so wish, they could introduce it in some of their selected schools or all the schools depending upon the money available with them. So far as we are concerned we find that we are not able to do it. We are spending money on 'Operation Blackboard' and so many other things which, according to us, deserve a higher priority. It is not that this is not going to come at all, but right now we do not have any scheme of this magnitude.

SHRIMATI JAYANTI PATNAIK: Sir, the hon. Minister has said that they are evaluating this project. I would like to know whether any evaluation report has been received from any organisation like Application Centre, Ahmedabad. If so, what are the details and what action has been taken on that and if not, what are the reasons for the delay in receipt of the report?

SHRI P.V. NARASIMHA RAO: Sir, I think this is specifically about a particular course. Specifically I have stated in the answer that the position is that we do not have a fully operative or to be made operative scheme over the whole country. Class Project I have already explained. The only

thing is there has been a committee and that committee has given some recommendations. We have sent those recommendations. Now the latest thing is about teachers. We are not able to find the teachers. So, that is the greatest complaint. Even if you have all the money, the constraint is about teachers and it will take some time before we are able to take on a programme like this.

Supply of cranes and equipments to Major Port Trusts

*869. **SHRI BANWARI LAL PUROHIT**
SHRI V SREENIVASA PRASAD:

Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether most of the major Port Trusts have placed orders with a Bombay based company for supply of heavy duty cranes and other heavy engineering equipments;

(b) whether the company has supplied technically sound equipments and adhered to the time-schedule;

(c) if not, the reasons thereof;

(d) whether the delay has also affected the time bound projects; and

(e) if so, the action taken by Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI RAJESH PILOT): (a) to (e). A statement is given below.

STATEMENT

(a) Since the name of the Bombay based company has not been mentioned, information is given below for all the major Ports which have placed orders for supply of heavy duty cranes and other heavy engineering equipments from companies based in Bombay.