

gainful employment/self employment in a manner which is poor-friendly. These programmes help poor to cross poverty line.

(d) According to the UNDP's Human Development Report, 1997 public expenditure on education as a percentage of GNP during 1993-94 was 3.8% in India as compared to 2.6% in China.

Maps Consciousness

1361. SHRI K.C. KONDAIAH : Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Survey of India has launched a popularisation drive to bring about map consciousness;

(b) if so, whether the Southern Circle of Survey of India has been entrusted with the work of publishing the maps of Goa, Tamil Nadu, Karnataka, Kerala, Pondicherry and parts of Andhra Pradesh;

(c) if so, the cost of these maps;

(d) the number of Sales Centres in Karnataka for the sale of these maps; and

(e) whether there is any proposal to open more Sales Centres in Karnataka or to allow private book stalls to sell these maps and if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRI YOGINDER K. ALAGH) : (a) Yes Sir.

(b) Southern Circle, Survey of India is responsible for preparation of topographical maps and public series map. District Planning Maps including maps of important cities covering Tamil Nadu, Karnataka, Kerala, Pondicherry and Goa. The responsibility of preparing similar maps for areas covering Andhra Pradesh has been entrusted to South South Eastern Circle of Survey of India.

(c) Maps of Goa, Tamil Nadu, Karnataka, Kerala, Pondicherry and Andhra Pradesh are available in the price range of Rs. 21.00 to Rs. 28.00.

(d) There is only one map sale centre located in Bangalore (Southern Circle Office) in the State of Karnataka.

(e) There is no proposal to open more Sales Centres in Karnataka. The response of private sector has not been encouraging so far.

US Climatologist Prediction on Indian Monsoon

1362. SHRI P. SHANMUGAM : Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are aware that climatologist of US predicted recently a severe case of

El Nino being in the offing which could affect the monsoon thereby causing droughts in India;

(b) if so, the reaction of the Government thereon; and

(c) the steps taken by the Government to tackle the drought situation the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRI YOGINDER K. ALAGH) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Independent studies by scientists indicate lack of one-to-one relationship between El-Nino and Indian Monsoon. However, keeping in view the seasonal forecast issued by the Indian Meteorological Department and following usual practice every year Government is continuously monitoring El-Nino as well as the progress of monsoon rains, so that appropriate strategy to meet the contingencies, if any, can be adopted expeditiously.

(c) A model contingent plan for effectively responding to adverse rainfall situations in any year has been circulated to all States. The States' own plans include alternative crop strategy and suitable agronomic practices to meet rainfall deficiencies if any during any year.

Voluntary Organisations in Kerala

1363. SHRI KODIKUNNIL SURESH : Will the Minister of RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state :

(a) the number of voluntary organisations from Kerala that have approached the CAPART for assistance under JRY, IRDP, etc. during the last three years;

(b) the details of the projects sanctioned so far;

(c) whether several project proposals are still pending with CAPART;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the time by which these proposals are likely to be cleared?

THE MINISTER OF RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI KINJARAPPU YERRANNAIDU) : (a) CAPART has reported that during the last three years about 800 voluntary organisations of Kerala State have approached it for grant of financial assistance for their project proposal.

(b) During the last three years, CAPART has sanctioned 172 project proposals of voluntary organisations of Kerala State. The amount sanctioned for these projects is Rs. 13.12 crores. The scheme-wise details of the sanctioned projects are given in the enclosed Statement-I.