

[Translation]

Memorandum against Public Schools

2933. SHRI KUNWAR SARVARAJ SINGH :
SHRI PANKAJ CHOWDHARY :

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

(a) whether the representatives of the Delhi Parents Federation has submitted any memorandum against the arbitrary manner of public schools; and

(b) if so, the basic contents thereof and the decision taken or likely to be taken by the Government thereon ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI MUHI RAM SAIKIA) : (a) and (b) The Govt. of NCT of Delhi have informed that they have received a memorandum from Delhi Parents Federation regarding disproportionate hike in fees, misuse of funds, etc. in recognised private schools. The Directorate of Education of that Govt. has conducted special inspections to ascertain facts in order to issue suitable directives for redressal of grievances.

[English]

Promotion of Cave Tourism in Meghalaya

2934. SHRI AJMEERA CHANDULAL : Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state :

(a) whether Asia's longest cave has been discovered in Meghalaya;

(b) whether Meghalaya also has a large number of other caves of various length;

(c) the details with regard to these caves;

(d) whether the Union Government in collaboration with the State Government propose to promote cave tourism in Meghalaya; and

(e) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SRIKANTA JENA) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) As per the information given by the State Government, one of the caves located at Lumshnong, Jaintia Hills District is reportedly the longest surveyed cave in India. Other caves of various lengths are also scattered over the State.

(d) and (e) For promoting Cave Tourism in Meghalaya, the Department of Tourism in Consultation with the State Government has identified two cave projects for financial assistance during 1997-98. These are (i) purchase of equipment for Cave Adventure Tourism; (ii) Illumination of Model Cave at Cherapunji. In addition, the State Government has brought out a brochure- 'Discover the Caves of Meghalaya.'

[Translation]

Water Crisis in Madhya Pradesh

2935. SHRI VIRENDRA KUMAR : Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state :

(a) whether there has been water crisis in Sagar town of Madhya Pradesh due to lower level of underground water;

(b) if so, the time by which the Government propose to complete the Rajghat Project alongwith the other measures to meet the shortage of water;

(c) whether there is any proposal under consideration of the Government to construct a dam in Motilal near Gadhparra; and

(d) if so, the time by which the work is likely to be started ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI SIS RAM OLA) : (a) No, Sir. As per long term observations made by the Central Ground Water Board, a decline of 4.91 metres in the level of ground water has been observed in Sagar town. The present level of development of ground water in Sagar block is only 30.52 per cent and the area falls in the category of 'white' block.

(b) The scheduled date for completion of Rajghat Project Unit I (Dam) on the river Betwa is June, 1998. Unit II of the Project (Canal) is scheduled to be completed during IXth Plan. The Government of Madhya Pradesh is also executing a drinking Water supply project on the river Bewas. Completion of this project depends on availability of funds to the state Government.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

SC/ST Posts

2936. SHRI KACHARU BHAU RAUT :
SHRI N.J. RATHWA :

Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state :

(a) the total number of posts reserved for SCs/STs lying vacant in the Ministry and departments and undertakings under his Ministry as on 30 June, 1997;

(b) the date from which these posts are lying vacant;

(c) the reasons therefor; and

(d) the measures taken/proposed to be taken to fill up these vacancies ?

THE MINISTER OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI T.G. VENKATRAMAN) : (a) to (d) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

[English]

Implementation of Motor Vehicle Act, 1993

2937. SHRI RAVINDRA KUMAR PANDAY : Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have made arrangement to ensure the implementation of the Motor Vehicle Act, 1993 and Section 97 of the said Act;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the main rules enshrined in the Motor Vehicle Act, 1993 and section 97 of the said act ?

THE MINISTER OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI T.G. VENKATRAMAN) : (a) to (c) There is no Act as Motor Vehicle Act, 1993. Also, there are no main rules of Motor Vehicle Act, 1993 since the Act itself does not exist.

Parliament Control on Government Funds

2938. SHRI CHHITUBHAI GAMIT :
SHRI SHANTILAL PARSOTAMDAS PATEL :
SHRI B.K. GADHVI :

Will the Minister of PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the attention of the Government has been drawn to a news-item appearing in the Times of India dated May 9, 1997 under the heading "Parliament has no control over 80% of the Government funds"; and

(b) if so, the reaction of the Government thereto ?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SRIKANTA JENA) : (a) Yes, Please.

(b) The news item has mainly referred to large

governmental expenditure which is classified as 'charged' on the Consolidated Funds of India and the incidence of rush of expenditure in March. Provisions for 'charged' expenditure are duly budgeted and even though these are not subject to vote of Parliament, the 'charged' expenditure is included in the Appropriation Bill, which is approved by the Parliament.

As regards rush of expenditure in March, instructions to Ministries/Departments are already existing for ensuring that the expenditure budgeted for the year should be evenly spread so as to avoid rush of expenditure towards the close of the financial year. However, such items of expenditure are not unauthorised since these are incurred out of the provision sanctioned in the Budget as per the Appropriation Act.

[Translation]

Espionage Activities at Bihata IAF Airport

2939. SHRI LALIT ORAON : Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether any incident of espionage occurred at Bihata airport of Air Force recently;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the number of persons arrested in this regard;

(c) whether any important clue was received during the interrogation; and.

(d) if not, the steps the Government propose to take to check such espionage activities ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI N.V.N. SOMU) : (a) to (d) No, Sir. However, on 20th August, 1996 a College student tried to enter Air Force Station, Bihata impersonating as an airman, who was apprehended and handed over to Civil Police.

[English]

Kerosene

2940. KUMARI FRIDA TOPNO : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are spending huge amount in the form of subsidy for kerosene oil;

(b) whether the Government are aware that in some States Kerosene oil is distributed in big cities and not adequately supplied to poor villagers;

(c) if so, the steps taken by the Government to check the malpractices in the distribution of kerosene oil