

last year when it was felt progress might be faster. However, I was unable to go for personal reasons. ASEAN have since indicated that the Secretary General will initiate action after consulting ASEAN's Standing Committee and its Chairman. Since sufficient progress has not yet been made in establishing a formal dialogue, the question of inviting India for a meeting at Foreign Ministers level would be pre-mature.

**National policies on reformation of Educational system**

1673. SHRI CHITTA MAHATA: Will the Minister of EDUCATION AND SOCIAL WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Ministry is under increasing pressure from academicians and concerned agencies for framing national policies on the reformation of educational system in the Universities and Colleges in the country;

(b) if so, what are the details in this regard; and

(c) what action Government have taken so far in this matter?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRIES OF EDUCATION AND SOCIAL WELFARE (SHRI-MATI SHEILA KAUL): (a) and (b). No, Sir. However, suggestions are received from time to time from individuals and institutions on various aspects of the higher education system involving reforms in the content of courses and examination methods, and improvements in the standards of teaching and research, etc.

(c) These suggestions are taken note of by the University Grants Commission while formulating the policies and programmes to be implemented under the Five Year Plans. The Commission also provides suitable guidelines to the Universities for the implementation of these policies and programmes.

**Assistant Technicians of Madras Port Trust**

1674. DR. A. KALANIDHI: Will the Minister of SHIPPING AND TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Assistant Technicians of Madras Port Trust, who have passed the requisite tests have not been promoted to Grade III Technicians;

(b) why and for what reasons the sanctioned posts are being kept vacant; and

(c) when action will be taken to fill the sanctioned posts?

THE MINISTER OF SHIPPING AND TRANSPORT (SHRI VEERENDRA PATIL): (a) to (c). In April, 1979, Madras Port Trust created 48 posts of Technicians-Grade III (Mechanical) and 24 posts of Technicians-Grade III (Electrical). These posts could not be filled in immediately because the Assistant Technicians in the feeder category had not completed the prescribed qualifying service in their grade. 39 posts of Technicians-Grade III (Mechanical) have since been filled in by promotion of eligible Assistant Technicians. Necessary action to fill in the remaining 9 posts of Technicians-Grade III (Mechanical), (which include 5 posts for reserved category candidates) is being taken by the Port Trust. Similar action in respect of the posts of Technician-Grade III (Electrical) is also in progress.

**General Managers' Training at Calcutta Metro Rail.**

1675. SHRI R. P. DAS: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the General Managers appointed for the Calcutta Metro Rail had not stayed there long enough to get themselves acquainted with the problems of its construction;