

often to the disadvantage of the students and their parents;

(b) whether it has been suggested to Government that as a rule there should be no change in the text-books for five years; and

(c) if so, what is Government's reaction to such a suggestion?

The Minister of Education (Dr. K. L. Shrimali): (a) No, Sir.

(b) No such suggestion has been received.

(c) Does not arise.

Steno-Typists and Stenographers

1321. Shri Balraj Madhok: Will the Minister of Home Affairs be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Steno-typists in the Secretariat and Non-Secretariat offices are in the pay scale of Rs. 110—180 plus Rs. 20 p.m. special pay and are tested at a minimum speed of 80 words per minute in shorthand by the Department/Ministry concerned;

(b) whether it is also a fact that the lowest grade Stenographers in the non-Secretariat offices are in the pay scale of Rs. 130—300 and are tested at a minimum speed of 100 words per minute in shorthand by the Department concerned;

(c) whether it is a fact that the lowest grade stenographers in the Secretariat offices are in the pay scale of Rs. 210—530 and are tested at a minimum speed of 100 words per minute in shorthand by the U.P.S.C.;

(d) whether it is a fact that the nature of work and duties and responsibilities of lowest grade Stenographers working in the Secretariat as well as non-Secretariat offices are the same; and

(e) if so, what is the justification for this disparity in the pay scales of lowest grade stenographers working

in Secretariat and non-Secretariat offices?

The Minister of State in the Ministry of Home Affairs (Shri Datar): (a) to (c). Yes.

(d) No.

(e) Does not arise.

Pragati Bidyalaya, Agartala

1322. Shri Dasaratha Deb: Will the Minister of Education be pleased to state:

(a) whether the attention of Government has been drawn to the mismanagement of the fund of Pragati Bidyalaya, Agartala; and

(b) if so, what steps are being taken to locate the culprits and to punish them?

The Minister of Education (Dr. K. L. Shrimali): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The matter is under police investigation.

Central Secretariat Service Officers on Deputation

1323. Shri D. C. Sharma: Will the Minister of Home Affairs be pleased to state:

(a) what is the number of Central Secretariat Service Officers at present who are away on deputation to (i) States; (ii) Centrally Administered areas; (iii) public sector organisations; and (iv) foreign posts in countries abroad;

(b) whether it is a fact that those officers can continue to remain on deputation for an indefinite period; and

(c) if so, what are the other conditions for such deputations so that the persons after 5 years of deputations may be absorbed in the borrowing organisation?

The Minister of State in the Ministry of Home Affairs (Shri Datar): (a) (i) 45; (ii) 23; (iii) 56; and (iv) 26.