

archaic terracotta beak-nosed figure, apparently a mother-goddess. A few sculptural fragments carved in Medieval style are also reported to have been discovered.

(d) The objects discovered cover *prima facie* a wide range, though the dating of surface finds can only be approximate. The objects are still under study and chronological assessments are provisional. The objects at Tamluk range from the early historical to the medieval period, while those at Amarshi would seem range from the Stone Age of undefined date to the medieval period.

Pre-Primary Education

739. Shri Warior:

Shri Prabhat Kar;

Shri Indrajit Gupta;

Shri Vasudevan Nair:

Will the Minister of Education be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have considered the question of evolving a national pattern for pre-primary education in India;

(b) if so, the result thereof; and

(c) the concrete steps proposed to be taken during the Fourth Five Year Plan in this respect?

The Deputy Minister in the Ministry of Education (Shrimati Soundaram Ramachandran): (a) to (c). Government recognize the need for a well-integrated system of pre-school education for its direct bearing on the welfare and care of the child on the one hand and on preparing him for formal education on the other. However, in view of the limitations of resources and personnel Government have not been able to provide funds, except for research in this field, increasing teacher-training facilities and producing necessary literature and materials. Encouragement and assistance is being given to voluntary organisations to open institutions of pre-primary education and Balwadis.

2501 (A) LS—5.

During the Fourth Five Year Plan, the following programme for the development of pre-primary education, has been included under educational development schemes:—

- (i) Training of key personnel in the field of teacher-education.
- (ii) Research in techniques of pre-primary education.
- (iii) Provision of pre-primary teacher-training facilities in institutions with attached model nursery school.
- (iv) Promoting the setting up of a limited number of pre-primary schools in selected areas.

The Department of Social Welfare has also a programme to establish family and child welfare centres. Under this project, action will be taken to strengthen existing Balwadis and to set up more according to the needs of the localities.

The Education Commission is likely to make recommendations on all aspects and stages of education. On receipt of their recommendation Govt. will reconsider the position.

Wage Planning

740. Shrimati Vimla Devi:

Dr. Ramesh Sen;

Shri Vasudevan Nair:

Will the Minister of Labour, Employment and Rehabilitation be pleased to state:

(a) whether his Ministry has any specialised team of experts on wage planning, to assist the various Tripartite Wage Boards which have been set up;

(b) if not, in what manner his Ministry is providing expert services to the Wage Boards in dealing with problems of industrial wage fixation; and

(c) whether the Wage Boards have any specialised cadre to study and give technical advice on the problems of Wage fixation?