

Internet Facility in Schools

2420. SHRI D.S. AHIRE :
SHRI MANIKRAO HODLYA GAVIT :

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

- (a) whether there is any proposal to start Internet facility in all the Government schools;
- (b) if so, the details thereof, State-wise;
- (c) the time by which it is likely to be implemented; and
- (d) the funds earmarked for the purpose, if any?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT AND MINISTER OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI) : (a) to (d) The National IT Action Plan, envisages providing easy Internet accessibility to Schools, Other Educational Institutions etc., by the year 2003. Implementation details in this behalf are being worked out.

[Translation]

Youth Policy

2421. SHRI RAMSHAKAL : Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

- (a) whether formulation of youth policy is pending for the last many years;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the Government had constituted a committee of youth representatives for recasting the youth policy;
- (d) if so, the details thereof; and
- (e) the steps taken by the Government in this matter?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT AND MINISTER OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI) : (a) No, Sir. The existing National Youth Policy was adopted in 1988. Over the years, a need to review it was felt so as to make it more need based. Accordingly, the process to formulate a New National Youth Policy has been initiated in consultation with various State Governments, Political Parties, Members of Parliament, Youth Organisations, Youth representatives as well as other concerned agencies.

(b) Salient features of Draft New National Youth Policy are:

1. A Statement of the rationale for as well as the objectives of the New Youth Policy;
2. Outlines the Privileges as well as the responsibilities of Youth;
3. Thrust areas as under:
 - Youth Empowerment
 - Gender Justice

- Inter sectorial Approach
- Information & Research work

4. Identifies key Sectors of youth concern for special attention, such as, Education, Training and employment, Health, Environment, Sports, Recreation and Leisure, Art and Culture, Science and Technology, Civics and Citizenship;
5. Emphasis on Priority target groups; and
6. Creation of an implementation Mechanism with the Department of Youth Affairs and Sports as the nodal Department for all youth related programmes, etc.

(c) No, sir.

(d) and (e) Do not arise.

[English]

Dredging Work in National Waterway-3

2422. SHRI GEORGE EDEN : Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state :

- (a) the total provision for undertaking dredging work in National Waterway-3 in the current financial year;
- (b) the status of the work and expenditure made so far for dredging in National Waterway-3;
- (c) the number of posts sanctioned for National Waterway-3;
- (d) whether all the posts have been filled up; and
- (e) if not, the number of posts lying vacant in Kochi and the action proposed to be taken, to fill up the same?

THE MINISTER OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (DR.M. THAMBI DURAI) : (a) A sum of Rs.4.00 crores had been provided for capital dredging including land acquisition by the Inland Waterways Authority of India (IWAI) for current financial year.

(b) Ever since its declarations NW-3 in 1993-94, approximately 6.30 lakhs cu.m. quantity has been dredged since 1993-94 for which expenditure of Rs.370.39 lakhs (approx.) has been made till November, 1998 by IWAI. Further, a scheme for capital dredging including land acquisition for widening of canal has been approved by the Government at a cost of Rs.26.00 crores. Payment of Rs.7.00 crores has been made to Govt. of Kerala for acquiring the land.

(c) At present, 19 posts have been sanctioned for National Waterway No.3.

(d) and (e) Yes, except the 9 posts which have not been filled up as Staff Inspection Unit (SIU) of Ministry of Finance has recommended for creation/abolition of some posts.

In addition to the existing sanctioned posts, 5 additional incumbents have been positioned in National Waterway No. 3.

However, action to fill up the vacant posts would be initiated after the implementation of the recommendations of SIU.

Dilapidated Condition of Sikkim National Highway

2423. SHRI BHIM DAHAL : Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state :

(a) whether the National Highway connected with the Sikkim State is in very dilapidated condition;

(b) if so, the steps proposed to be taken to improve its dilapidated condition; and

(c) the funds earmarked during each of the last three years for maintenance/repair of this National Highway and the amount actually spent thereon; year-wise?

THE MINISTER OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (DR. M. THAMBI DURAI) : (a) and (b) No, Sir. The road is being maintained in traffic worthy conditions within the available resources.

(c) The funds earmarked and expenditure incurred during last three years are as follows:

1995-96	Rs.100.35 lakhs
1996-97	Rs. 87.41 lakhs
1997-98	Rs.105.65 lakhs

Development of Technologies

2424. SHRIMATI SHEELA GAUTAM : Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state :

(a) whether Biotech Consortium India Ltd. New Delhi and other Research Institutions sponsored by the department of Biotechnology have developed technologies for Bio-pesticides and Bio-Fertilizer and neem based pesticides for small enterprises;

(b) if so, the details thereof, separately, serial-wise;

(c) whether BCIL have formally entered into an agreement with its foreign counterpart for transfer of such technologies to small enterprises in India;

(d) if so, the details thereof with products and country of origin;

(e) whether such technologies have been transferred for commercialisation;

(f) if so, the names and addresses of the parties and norms for such technologies transfer, serial-wise; and

(g) the activities and functions of BCIL and their achievements since inception as on date, serial-wise?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT AND MINISTER OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI) : (a) Yes Sir, Technologies

have been developed through DBT sponsored R&D projects in the area of Biopesticides and Biofertilizer. Three technologies for the production of Blue Green Algae and Rhizobium and eight Biopesticide technologies for mass production of various biocontrol agents have been developed. Neem based pesticides are also in the process of development.

(b) (i) Biopesticides : Mass production technologies for eight biopesticides viz. Nuclear Polyhedrosis virus (NPV) of *Heliothis armigera*, NPV of *Spodoptera litura*, Granulosis virus (GV) of *Chilo infuscatellus*, *Chrysopa*, *Trichogramma*, *Trichoderma viride*, *Gliocladium virens* and *Pseudomonas fluorescens* have been developed. Two biocontrol production units were set up one each at TNAU, Coimbatore and MKU, Madurai through the financial support (grant-in-aid) of BCIL based on the technology packed of TNAU for the commercial production of the biopesticides.

(ii) Biofertilizer: Mass production technology for quality assured Blue Green Algae in Flexibioreactor and also under polyhouse condition have been developed. Fermentation based technologies for large scale production of Rhizobium biofertilizers suitable for chickpea, rajmash, moongbean and soyabean have also been developed.

(c) No.

(d) Does not arise.

(e) Yes.

(f) The technologies for biopesticides were transferred to various industries Crop Health Products Limited has started production of *Trichogramma* and NPV on a limited scale. The others are at various stages of implementation. (The details are given in the enclosed Statement - I).

(g) Biotech Consortium India Limited (BCIL) was set up with the objectives of providing the linkages to facilitate accelerated commercialization of biotechnology. BCIL has been engaged in technology development, technology transfer, project constancy, fund syndication, information dissemination and manpower and placement training related to biotechnology. As on date, it has assisted over 120 clients including scientist, technologist, research institutions, universities, first generation entrepreneurs, the corporate sector, government, banks and financial institutions.

BCIL was incorporated as a public limited company in 1990 under the Indian Companies Act 1956, promoted by the Department of Biotechnology, Govt. of India. Its core capital of 5.37 crores has been contributed mainly by the All India Financial Institutions including IDBI, ICICI, IFCI, UTI and RCTC and the corporate sector including Ranbaxy laboratories, Glaxo India, Cadila laboratories, Lupin Laboratories, Kothari Sugars and Chemicals, Rallis India, SPIC, Madras Refineries, Zuari Agro, EID Parry, ACC and Excel Industries.

The major areas of BCIL's operation are:

• Technology Development

• Technology Transfer