

(a) whether the Government have approved a proposal for setting up of a Sanskrit University at Kaladi, the birth place of Adi Shankaracharya in Kerala;

(b) if so, when was the proposal approved;

(c) the present stage at which the proposal stands; and

(d) whether the Government are also considering a proposal to start a Sanskrit University at Sringeri?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI ARJUN SINGH) : (a) to (c). The Government of Kerala has planned to establish a Sanskrit University at Kaladi. The Central Government had sanctioned an ad-hoc grant of Rs. 1.00 crore in March, 1987 to Government of Kerala for setting up of this University. The State Government constituted a three-member Committee to look into the feasibility of the proposal. The Committee submitted its report to the State Government in December, 1990. According to the information furnished by the State Government, the Bill to establish the University has not been introduced in the State Legislature.

(d) A decision has been taken in principle to set up a Sanskrit University at Sringeri. Institutional structures will be initiated which would evolve into a university over a period of time.

BONDED LABOUR AND CHILD LABOUR

85. DR. ASIM BALA : Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state the number of bonded labour and child labour in the country, separately?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI K. RAMAMURTHY) : According to available information, total number of bonded labour identified and freed in the country as on 31-3-1990 was 2,44,749.

As far as the number of child labour is concerned, the latest Census figures available are with reference to the year 1981 and according to this, the number of child labour in the age group 0-14 years in the country was 13,640,872.

UNDERNOURISHED MOTHERS

86. DR. ASIM BALA : Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) the number of mothers suffering from undernourishment; and

(b) the result thereof on the children

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DEPARTMENT OF YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS AND THE DEPARTMENT OF WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT) (KUMARI MAMATA BANERJEE) : (a) A survey conducted by the Indian Council of Medical Research under National Nutrition Monitoring Bureau (NNMB) during 1972-79 in 10 States revealed that about 24 per cent of the women had low body weight and height. As a result of such undernourishment these mothers fall into high risk categories and are likely to suffer from obstetric complications.

(b) These Undernourished mothers give birth to low weight babies. These babies are more susceptible to infections, undernourishment, nutrition related diseases, morbidity and mortality.

LEGISLATION FOR BUILDING WORKERS

87. SHRI SOBHANA DRESWARA RAOVADDE : Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to bring forward a legislation to protect the interests of the building and construction workers in the country;

(b) if so, the action taken in this regard;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI K. RAMAMURTHY) : (a) to (c). A Central Legislation to protect the interests of building and construction workers in the country is under the active consideration of the Government.