

difficult living conditions. Educational facilities are lacking in these areas. The number of educational institutions is not adequate and thereby the children of these employees are deprived of education. The pulls and pressures for frequent transfers are also due to this.

I, therefore, request the hon. Education Minister to set up a high level committee to go into this problem and solve it immediately. With a view to provide immediate relief, the children of such employees should be admitted in the nearby educational institutions on priority basis.

[English]

(vi) Need to set up a thermal power plant in Kerala to meet its growing demand for power.

SHRI K. MOHANDAS (Mukundapuram) : Sir, Kerala is generally regarded as a surplus State with regard to electricity. This assumption was disproved in 1983 when there was a severe drought and the reservoirs almost dried up. The Government had to impose a cent per cent power-cut on industries throwing out of gear the entire industrial production. Yet, the gravity of the power situation in Kerala does not seem to have been well understood by the Centre. At present, Kerala has only hydro-electric power plants which fail when the monsoon fails. Complete dependence on hydro-electric power will be fatal as was proved on more than one occasion. Therefore, what is required is other sources of power generation.

Kerala is one of the very few States which have not received any Central investment in the power sector. The State has demanded that a thermal power plant should be set up in Kerala to meet its growing demand for power. This will reduce our dependence on hydropower and will avoid a crisis in the power generation which may develop in the event of a failure of the monsoon.

Therefore, I would request the Government to take immediate steps to set up a thermal power plant in Kerala.

[Translation]

(vii) Need to ensure regular supply of Cement from factories for completion of various projects under way in Bihar.

SHRI D P. YADAVA (Monghyr) : The Bihar Government has taken up the construction of many public works. Cement is required in large quantity in all important projects like irrigation, power, road and bridge construction. Generally it is observed that the pace of progress of all these projects accelerates between December and June, but due to scarcity of cement, the work on the projects is held up. The Cement factories are supposed to supply cement at the rate of Rs. 45 per bag for public works, but the factory owners do not supply it at that rate in time with a view to earn profit due to which the projects suffer and the estimated costs rise manifold. The Irrigation Department of Bihar Government had directed cement factory at Chunar and Chaibasa to supply cement for Ganga Pump Canal Scheme at Monghyr, but the cement factories had not so far supplied the cement as per requirements. Similar is the fate of other State Government Schemes. The Central Government should ensure that there is no shortage of cement for public works, particularly during the period from December to June. The cement factories should be directed to supply cement for public works in Bihar as per indents of Bihar Government.

(viii) Need to preserve the Ghana Bird Sanctuary near Bharatpur in Rajasthan.

SHRI MOOL CHAND DAGA (Pali) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, the world famous Bird Sanctuary 'Ghana' near Bharatpur is losing its charm due to the negligence of the Governments officials. Previously thousands and lakhs of beautiful and attractive birds used to come here from distant places, but due to the indiscriminate felling of trees and haphazard growth of grass, the beauty of that area is diminishing day by day. The birds have also stopped breeding due to this factor. In the last two years three devastating fires took place in which thousands of trees have been destroyed and thousands of rare birds lost their lives. The Government officers are enquiring into the incidents at their own speed and not a single report has been submitted so far. The people say that where earlier beautiful

birds used to chirp, now the crows caw there.

I, therefore, urge the Government to draw the attention of the Chief Minister of Rajasthan towards it and also extend its full cooperation in preserving the beauty of this bird sanctuary.

14.57 hrs.

**MOTION RE : CHALLENGE OF
EDUCATION—‘A POLICY
PERSPECTIVE.’**

(*Engli h*)

MR. SPEAKER : Mr. Narasimha Rao.

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN
RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI P.V.
NARASIMHA RAO) : I beg to move :

“That this House takes note of the status paper entitled ‘Challenge of Education—a policy perspective’, laid on the Table of the House on the 20th August, 1985.”

14.58 hrs.

[MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER *in the Chair*]

As a brief introduction to the discussion, I would like to place before the House certain developments since the House has had an occasion to consider education earlier.

A new Ministry of Human Resources Development has been formed by combining Education, Culture, Sports, Youth Affairs, Women’s Welfare, Integrated Child Development and Censorship of films. The conceptual framework of this Ministry consists in building up the all-round personality of man and to this end, integrating as many activities as possible, with a view to evolving a package of inputs and delivering them. The process is not merely one of coordination, but real integration so that all components are woven into a single, continuous, harmonious programme. As members are aware, these programmes were implemented separately in the past, whether at the Centre or in the States, whether under one Minister or more. The integration such as is being attempted now is thus novel and unique. Its evolution in

all details is therefore bound to be gradual and on a pragmatic pattern.

Education has to play a catalyst role in this process of human resource development. It has to provide the continuum as well as a basis for the progress of the individual and the society through development of values, attitudes and skills; it has to provide strength and resilience to the people and enable them to respond to the challenge of change. It has to be characterised not merely by its concern for the individual but even more so, its capacity to serve as an instrument of social transformation. In the Indian context, the concept of national development goes far beyond economic growth. It is our endeavour that the product of our education system would be self-confident individual with a strong commitment to democratic values and secularism, concerned with the emergence of a nation united in purpose from amongst people speaking different languages, professing different religions, pursuing a variety of life styles. It would be imperative to devise system a under which all educational endeavour is fully integrated with the socio-cultural milieu and aimed at development of the full potential of the individual.

In Government’s view the time has come when we should conceptualise the roles of the different stages of the educational process not in isolation but as integral parts of one single, all-inclusive movement of human resource development.

15.00. hrs

Although it is difficult to say where exactly the movement begins, we may perhaps begin with the pregnant mother and the ante-natal care which she receives. When the baby is born, it gets full immunisation and the benefits of nutrition programmes. Then it enters an Anganwadi and the pre-primary stage of education. Two years later, the child enters the Primary School and continues until the age of 14, as envisaged under the Constitution. During this time, he gets the benefits of the School Health Programmes which would ensure full coverage. On the education side, those who drop out of the formal school would be served by the non formal network which is so devised as to enable lateral entry into the formal stream. The formal and non-formal systems open up