

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (PROF. M.G.K. MENON): (a) to (c). The scheme of scholarships to students from non-Hindi speaking States for Post-Matric Studies in Hindi is implemented through State Govts/U.T. Administrations. The Government of Assam was allocated 89 scholarships each year during 1988-89 and 1989-90 for giving awards to students studying Hindi at pre-degree, degree and Post graduate levels.

Grants under the scheme are sanctioned on receipt or requirement of funds duly supported by statements of expenditure and taking into account the amount of unspent balance available with the State Government from out of the grants released in the earlier years. The Government of Assam did not furnish the statement of accounts of grants sanctioned to it during 1982-83, 1983-84 and 1986-87. Therefore, as per rules, grants during the last two years could not be released to the Government of Assam

#### **Trekking to Gangotri**

6103. SHRI SRIKANTHA DATTA NARASIMHA RAJA WADIYAR: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have closed all expeditions including trekking to Gangotri;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) how long the expeditions will remain closed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION IN THE

MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (PROF. M.G.K. MENON): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c). Does not arise.

#### **Working Group on Early childhood and Elementary Education**

6104. PROF. P. J. KURIEN: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government had appointed a working group on early childhood and elementary education in the country;

(b) whether the working group found that 2.5 lakh elementary school teachers appointed by Government have no qualification and training;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the remedial measures being taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (PROF. M.G.K. MENON) (a) The Planning Commission had set up a Working Group on Early Childhood Education and Elementary Education for formulation of the VIII five Year Plan.

(b) and (c). The Group had referred to certain provisional data of the 5th All India Educational Survey, to the effect that about 2.5 lakh (or roughly 13.4%) of the teachers working at the Primary stage had qualifications of middle level (i.e. upto class VIII or VII) or lower level, and that of these (2.5 lakhs teachers), about 12.8% were also untrained.

(d) The Group had recommended that