

(c) whether Government propose to instruct all educational institutions to delete in future those columns from the different forms used by them; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRIES OF EDUCATION AND SOCIAL WELFARE (SHRI-MATI SHEILA KÄUL): (a) According to information available in the Ministry, there are more than six lakhs educational institutions ranging from pre-primary schools to post-graduate institutions and universities in all parts of the country. A vast majority of these institutions are outside the purview of the Central Government. Moreover it is entirely within the competence of the concerned educational authorities to devise such application forms for admission to and examinations conducted by them. Information in regard to these matters is not collected by the Ministry and is not readily available.

(b) Eliciting information about cast or religion in application forms for admission to and examinations conducted by educational institutions etc. does not offend the provisions of the Constitution;

(c) and (d). Do not arise.

**Raniganj-Bankura Line and Rail-cum-Road Bridge Over Damodar**

\*280. SHRI AJIT KUMAR SAHA:

SHRI SUDHIR KUMAR GIRI:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Ministry of Energy, Chief Minister of West Bengal and Members of Parliament requested him for construction of a new rail line between Raniganj

and Bankura via Mejhia and a rail cum-road bridge over the Damodar river;

(b) if so, details thereof; and

(c) action taken by his Ministry thereon in details?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI C. K. JAFFER SHARIEF)  
(a) Yes, Sir.

**Statement**

(b) and (c). A Survey had been conducted at the instance and cost of the State Government of West Bengal for a new railway line from Bankura to Raniganj via Majhia including a major bridge over the river Damodar. This Survey was completed and the report made over to the State Government in 1977.

Subsequently, certain Members of Parliament, the Chief Minister and certain other Ministers of West Bengal and the Union Ministry of Energy addressed this Ministry in regard to construction of this line. The Ministry of Energy also gave certain indications of coal movement on the suggested line for the Kola-ghat Thermal Power Station. In this background, the South Eastern Railway Administration has been asked to make a reappraisal of the earlier survey in the light of these indications and to make a report.

**Private Bus Transport in the Andaman and Nicobar Islands**

\*281. SHRI SYED MASUDAL HOSSAIN: Will the Minister of SHIPPING AND TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have permitted introduction of private bus transport in the Andaman and Nicobar Islands;

(b) if so, full details of the arrangements with private bus owners; and

(c) the number of buses being introduced by private operators?

THE MINISTER OF SHIPPING AND TRANSPORT (SHRI VEERENDRA PATIL): (a) In order to supplement their own bus operations by its Transport Department, the Andaman and Nicobar Administration have decided to introduce private bus services in the Islands to meet the increasing traffic demand.

(b) and (c). Applications have been invited by the State Transport Authority from private bus owners for operating buses on six routes in the South and Middle Andaman. The applications so far received are under consideration of S.T.A., for the grant of permits.

#### Cochin Shipyard

\*282. SHRI BAPUSAHEB PARULKAR: Will the Minister of SHIPPING AND TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that only two ships 'Rani Padmini' and 'Ratha Deep' have been launched by Cochin Shipyard in nearly last ten years;

(b) whether Government are aware that Korean Shipyard Commissioned at the same time, has launched 200 ships in last nine years; and

(c) steps Government propose to take to improve the performance of Cochin Shipyard?

THE MINISTER OF SHIPPING AND TRANSPORT (SHRI VEERENDRA PATIL): (a) The construction of Cochin Shipyard was formally commenced in April, 1972 and shipbuilding facilities fully commissioned by

October, 1979. Since then two ships have been launched, one in 1980, and the second in 1981.

(b) It is understood that Hyundai Shipyard in South Korea have (between 1973, when the shipbuilding started, and 1980) delivered about 185 vessels totalling nearly 5.6 million DWT. This Shipyard has 3 building docks and one slipway. Cochin Shipyard has one building dock with capacity to build 2 ships of 75,000 DWT each.

(c) The Shipyard has already initiated various measures like improvement in systems, planning, design output, material coordination, advanced outfitting, etc. to improve its performance. The building cycle time of each successive ship is being reduced to achieve its rated capacity. A consultancy arrangement is also being made for greater improvement in production and productivity.

#### Resources and Assets of National Children Fund

\*283. SHRI R. P. GAEKWAD: Will the Minister of EDUCATION AND SOCIAL WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the resources and present assets of the National Children's Fund and the steps taken to augment the resources of the National Children Fund; and

(b) the financial assistance given to voluntary organisation of National level for welfare and development of children since its creation in 1977?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRIES OF EDUCATION AND SOCIAL WELFARE (SHRI-MATI SHEILA KAUL): (a) and (b) The National Children's Fund was constituted in March 1979 under the Charitable Endowments Act, 1890.

2. The resources and the present assets of the National Children's