Indian languages displayed at the 9th New Delhi World Book Fair was less in comparison to the English books exhibited.

(b) Government does encourage the publication of books in Indian languages. Under the scheme of financial assistance for publication in Indian languages, assistance to the extent of 80% of the approved expenditure is made available to voluntary organisations and to individuals for meeting expenditure on publication of books in Indian languages listed in the Eighth Schedule of the Constitution of Indians and their derivatives. Financial assistances is also provided by way of purchase of these books from organisations and individuals under the above scheme. Besides, publishing books in 12 Indian languages, the National Book Trust provides assistance to publishers for publishing books for children and adults including neo-literates.

[*Translation*]

Offering Wasteland to Landless

3169. SHRI RAM LAL RAHI: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to launch a scheme to generate more employment opportunities by offering waste and fallow land to landless persons for growing grass and to plant trees for fruits and fuel;

(b) if so, when; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION(SHRIMATI MANEKA GANDHI): (a) to (c). The Central Government has circulated model guidelines to the States on a scheme titled the "Tree Patta Scheme". It gives usufructuary rights to the local landless poor in trees planted and grown on unculturable wasteland. The main emphasis is on growing fuel wood and fruit bearing trees and fodder. The Tree Patta Scheme has the potential of enlisting participation of the landless poor in tree planting, and funding is permissible under the Rural Employment Programme.

[*English*]

Setting up of Vishwa Hindi Vidyapeeth

3170. SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether there was a proposal to establish a Vishwa Hindi Vidya Peeth for the benefit of foreigners interested in Hindi;

(b) whether a sub-committee of the Karya Karini Up-Samiti of Hindi Shiksha Samiti has urged the Government to go ahead with the establishment of the Peeth; and

(c) the follow-up action taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND MINISTER OF STATE IN DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (PROF. M.G.K. MENON): (a) to (c). On the basis of a decision taken in the Meeting of Karya Karini Upa-Samiti of Hindi Shiksha Samiti held on 15.9.1983, a sub-committee was constituted to examine the proposal for the establishment of a Vishwa Hindi Vidyapeeth. The objective of the Vidyapeeth as proposed was to disseminate and advance knowledge and understanding of Hindi as an international language.

The views of the University Grants

Commission were invited on the proposal. The Chairman as well as the Commission have not favoured the proposal.

The matter has been further examined, keeping in view, interalia, the overall resource constraints and with particular reference to the concept of zero base budgeting. After review, it has been decided that the proposal may not be taken up for implementation for the present.

Regional Science reference Centres

3171. SHRI K.S. RAO: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Department of Science and Technology has projected a new scheme for creation a series of Regional Science Reference Centres during the Eighth Five Year Plan; and

(b) if so, the details of the scheme and locations of the proposed Regional Science Reference Centres?

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) Yes, Sir.

The scheme has, however, not been approved for inclusion in the 1990-91 annual plan.

(b) Does not arise.

Computer Technology for Indian Language

3172. SHRI PYARELAL KHANDELWAL: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether a programme is being envisaged for the development of computer technology for Indian language specially Sanskrit;

(b) whether some specific projects in this regard are being launched; if so, the details of each such project;

(c) the targets for Sanskrit-oriented projects to be achieved during the implementation of ·e programme; and

(d) the details of the Universities/Institutes to which these projects are being earmarked?

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 Department of Electronics has drawn up a programme, namely, Technology Development for Indian Languages (TDIL) for implementation during the Eighth Plan. This programme covers Sanskrit also.

(b) to (d). A Sanskrit-oriented project, entitled "Computer Assisted Sanskrit Teaching, Learning Environment" was launched by the Department of Electronics as a joint project at Jawaharlal Nehru University (JNC), New Delhi in June. 1988 and Lal Bahadur Shastri Kendriya Sanskrit Vidyapeeth, New Delhi in November. 1989.

A project on investigating the use of Sanskrit language for natural language processing was initiated at the Centre for Development of Advanced Computing (C-DAC), Pune in March, 1989.

During the implementation of the TDIL programme, project proposals will be called for. Those projects will cover areas such as language learning system, computer based