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

grammar and dictionary knowledge representation schemes and natural language understanding system. These will be applicable to all Indian languages including Sanskrit. All projects taken up will involve targets for achievement and monitoring.

Apart from investigating the use of Sanskrit language for natural language processing, target of the project at C-DAC includes development of tools and techniques for Sanskrit Language processing in the Paninian Grammar framework.

Project proposals will be invited under the TDIL programme during the Eighth Plan.

Classification and Mapping of Wasteland

3173. SHRI GOPI NATH GAJAPATHI: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have taken steps for classification and mapping of wastelands in the country;

(b) whether such programmes are undertaken through any national project;

(c) if so, the names of the States where such classification and mapping had been undertaken on wasteland;

(d) whether the work has been launched in Orissa also;

(e) if so, the progress made so far?

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). Yes, Sir. Classification and mapping of wastelands has been car-

ried out in 146 districts under the National Wastelands Identification Project. These districts were identified on the basis that 15% or more of their areas are wastelands. The names of 19 States are given below:-

Andhra Pradesh, Assam, Bihar, Gujarat, Haryana, Himachal Pradesh, Jammu & Kashmir, Karnataka, Kerala, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Manipur, Nagaland, Orissa, Punjab, Rajasthan, Tamil Nadu, Uttar Pradesh and West Bengal.

(d) and (e). Yes, Sir. Mapping of wastelands has been completed in Ganjam, Cuttack, Puri, Sundergarh, Bolangir, Kalahandi and Dhenkanal districts of Orissa.

Tape Deck Mechanism VCR Units in Orissa

3174. SHRI GOPI NATH GAJAPATHI: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to establish some video tape deck mechanism units in Orissa;

(b) if so, the sites selected in the State for manufacture of such video tape deck mechanism units;

(c) whether the Department of Electronics has cleared the proposal; and

(d) if so, when and how many such units are proposed to be set up in Orissa at present and in near future?

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 (d). There is no such proposal at present.