

Board has a responsibility and we have been assisting the State Pollution Control Board financially and technically and I do hope that the cumulative problem in the past which was not attended to is going to be rectified in the future.

SHRIMATI GEETA MUKHERJEE: One part of my question has already been asked by Maliniji. I would like to supplement it. Is the problem of arsenic pollution confined only to West Bengal? If not which are the States that are affected by it and what steps have been taken? It is because we know that Kerala is also.....

MR. SPEAKER: These laboratories examine the water.

SHRIMATI GEETA MUKHERJEE: Kerala is also affected.

MR. SPEAKER: That is why we have the laboratories.

SHRIMATI GEETA MUKHERJEE: Sir, laboratories say it is there. Though the subject of drinking water comes under the jurisdiction of the State Government, on this vital question, the Central Government must come out with more details. I would like to know what is the reaction of the Minister with regard to that.

SHRI KAMAL NATH: The hon. Member wants to know.....

MR. SPEAKER: You will help to the extent possible. We want short reply.

SHRI KAMAL NATH: The problem generally exists in West Bengal and, in other parts of the country it is not in such high levels of concentration. Regarding other parts I have already answered.

*[Translation]*

SHRI ARVIND TRIVEDI: Mr. Speaker, Sir, you have said that it is a burning problem and you want to resolve it by providing with potable water.

MR. SPEAKER: This is not the problem of water, this is the problem of laboratory...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI ARVIND TRIVEDI: Sir, I am talking of pure drinking water which has become costlier than milk these days.

MR. SPEAKER: The question is whether we are going to set up laboratories in 550 districts to test the potable water or not?...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI ARVIND TRIVEDI: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to submit that the Government is going to set up laboratories. Whether the mineral water which is being sold is tested or not and if so, whether the seal of the Government is put on that or not? The pure water is costlier than milk. It is a slur on the country that a water bottle costs rupees 10 to 12. Sir, you might be drinking this water and you might not be sure whether this water is pure or not. Shall we have to depend on mineral water for pure water or the Government will make some arrangement for providing pure water?

*[English]*

SHRI KAMAL NATH: The hon. Minister of Civil Supplies, Consumer Affairs and Public Distribution will be able to answer that. But, water, whether it is in a bottle or a glass, is not my business to know.

#### **Eradication of Illiteracy**

\*104. SHRI RAM TAHAL CHOUDHARY:  
SHRI PHOOL CHAND VERMA:

Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to launch a scheme to eradicate illiteracy from backward areas of the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof indicating the target fixed for 1994-95;

(c) whether the Government have identified the educationally backward districts for this purpose;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the amount of financial assistance provided to voluntary organisations engaged in illiteracy eradication programme during the last one year?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION AND DEPARTMENT OF CULTURE. (KUMARI SELJA): A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

#### **STATEMENT**

(a) to (e). The National Literacy Mission has been mandated to make 100 million people literate in the age group of 15—35, all over the country, including in the backward areas, by 1997. No separate year-wise targets have been fixed. The main approach towards literacy is through volunteer—based Total Literacy Campaigns, taken up on the basis of projects, prepared by the districts, irrespective of the level of their literacy. The Total Literacy Campaigns are implemented by Zilla Saksharta Samitis which in the representation from Voluntary Agencies. Where the Total Literacy Campaigns have not been taken up as yet, Voluntary Agencies are supported for taken up literacy work in small pockets. During the current year, an amount of Rs. 136.01 crores has been released to the Zilla Saksharta Samitis and voluntary agencies.

*[Translation]*

SHRI RAM TAHAL CHOUDHARY: Mr. Speaker Sir, I wanted to know the target fixed for eradicating illiteracy but no reply to it has been given. As per the census of 1991, 52 percent of the country's population was illiterate and at some places, 70 per cent people were illiterate. My question was as to what is the target fixed by the Government for the year 1994-95 to which no reply has been given. I would like to know from the Government if a special movement is being launched to make the people literate?

**KUMARI SELJA:** To make the illiterate people literate, we have launched a full literacy movement which is going on throughout the country and it has been launched keeping in view the illiterate people in our country, specially, in the four States *i.e.* Bihar, Uttar Pradesh, Rajasthan and Madhya Pradesh. We are paying more attention towards these states. In this programme, the total literacy drive is taken up at the district level. It is obvious that the educationally backward districts are taken up in it.

**SHRI RAM TAHAL CHOUDHARY:** Mr. Speaker Sir, the hon. Minister has just now told about Bihar and I come from Santhal-Pargana area of Bihar. There the voluntary organisations are working for literacy. I have information with me that there is no one to supervise these programmes and no one knows whether the money granted by the Government is utilised properly or is misused or the people are made literate on paper only. Therefore, I would like to submit that the representatives of the people should also be involved in programmes such for consultation. Only then the work can be accomplished, otherwise the money is going waste. Where the children want to study, there are no schools and where there are schools, there are no teachers. If such things continue, everything will be done merely on paper. I would like to know from the Government as to whether it propose to set up a committee to enquire into the proper utilisation of these funds?

**KUMARI SELJA:** This screening goes on continuously and the monitoring is being done at every level. The National Literacy Mission and the District Literacy Mission are formed for this purpose. Besides, there is a committee at block level and at village level also, which monitor it continuously. There are representatives in it and the District Collector is its Chairman. This society is properly registered, looks after the whole work, and it includes representatives from each section.

**SHRI RAM TAHAL CHOUDHARY:** The actual position is that there is no block level committee and the B.D.O. also does not know where this organisation is running.

**KUMARI SELJA:** This organisation is working in the district where the Total Literacy Campaign is going on.

**SHRI MOHAN RAWALE:** Mr. Speaker Sir the Government has done a good work by making arrangement for free education for the women but poverty affects all equally. Therefore, would the Government make arrangement for free education for boys also?

**KUMARI SELJA:** The Government has made arrangement for free education upto 8th class for all the children in the country.

[English]

**DR. B.G. JAWALI:** Mr. Speaker Sir, I think there is a little confusion in the reply given here. At one point in the beginning, it is stated that the National Literacy Mission has been mandated to make about 100 million people literate in the age group of 15—35 by 1997. It is also stated that no separate year-wise targets have been fixed

and at the end it is mentioned that during the current year an amount of Rs. 136.01 crore has been released to the Zilla Saksharta Samitis and voluntary agencies. I would like to know what is the basis on which this amount has been released, if there is no year-wise target.

We have been reading in the newspapers about so many districts where the fund allocated for this purpose has been misutilised and that more number of teaching aids have been purchased than the number identified. So, such being the case, there has to be an annual target as well as an evaluation of that target and there must be a monitoring agency, then only the next year target ought to have been taken.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Please come to the question.

**DR. B.G. JAWALI:** This is the question itself.

**MR. SPEAKER:** This cannot be the question, this is a statement.

**DR. B.G. JAWALI:** I would like to know whether the Government is proposing to have an annual target, its evaluation and a monitoring agency.

[Translation]

**KUMARI SELJA:** The money released for the voluntary agencies is sanctioned by the District Literacy Committee on the basis of the project and no year-wise target is fixed. Our target is to make 10 crore people literate by the end of the year 1997. In this way, our total literacy programme will continue regularly.

**SHRI SATYA DEO SINGH:** Mr. Speaker, Sir, illiteracy and poverty are inter-connected. The one who is poor does not want to be literate. He does not have the opportunity. Does the hon. Minister have any action plan so that the Total Literacy Campaign may not suffer like the adult education programme and the non-formal education scheme. Likewise, will a separate arrangement in the total target be made for the districts of Eastern Uttar Pradesh where there is large scale poverty and illiteracy?

**KUMARI SELJA:** This scheme is not implemented separately in a particular area but it is being implemented throughout the country. I agree with the flaws you have mentioned just now in the adult education system. That is why, we have formulated the Total Literacy Campaign Mode. It is not that this is a Government project and all efforts will have to be made by the Government. It needs large scale voluntary efforts and it is a sort of a voluntary programme.

An environment is created in the district where it is launched. It is not so that we withdraw it from a particular district and sanction it somewhere else. This demand should come from the districts. If the people have worked there and if there is some committee to recommend the Total Literacy Campaign, only then we sanction it.

**SHRI SATYA PAL SINGH YADAV:** The hon. President in his Address has said that 100 districts will be taken up for this scheme. The funds have also been allotted in this Budget for this purpose. I would, therefore, like to know from the hon. Minister as to how this money is being

utilised to remove illiteracy. Is the cooperation of the representatives of the people being sought and if, not will you seek their co-operation.

**KUMARI SELJA:** As far as the apex body of the literacy mission is concerned, there are representatives from all the national level political parties in it.

**SHRI MOHAN SINGH:** The hon. Minister in her reply has informed that 10 crore people, who are in the age group of 15—35 years will be made literate by the year 1997. As per my knowledge, at present, there are 45 crore illiterates in this country and this number will increase by 10 crore more by 1997. As sum of Rs. 136 crore is to be spent on making them literate, but they are merely taught to put their signature and, are sent back. After one year, all of them again become illiterate and on account of it, we cannot achieve our target. Does the hon. Minister think in terms of providing compulsory and free education to every child upto the age of 14 years, as is the intention of the Constitution of our country.

**KUMARI SELJA:** Free education upto the age of 14 years is being given in Government schools. The economic and social conditions in our country are different. Therefore, we have not been able to make it compulsory. All the hon. Members know that the ground realities are different and that is why this problem is before us. As far as the question of teaching them to put their signature only is concerned, I would like to submit that they are taught three primers. After that the minimum level of learning is also tested. They are not left there only. After that the post literacy campaign continues for two years so that whatever is taught does not go waste.

**SHRI PRABHU DAYAL KATHERIA:** Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to submit that after independence our policy was that everyone has the fundamental right to education. Crores of rupees have been spent till date on literacy. About Uttar Pradesh, I may inform that Primary School teachers have been involved with the programme there and they are taking up this task. In the primary schools, which are in tribal areas, nothing has so far been done. I would therefore, like to know from the hon. Minister if the Central Government would do something for these tribal areas?

**KUMARI SELJA:** The primary schools come under State Governments although we provide assistance to them from the Centre. There is a separate programme for Primary Education in Uttar Pradesh. So, all these things go side by side.

12.00 hrs

[English]

**SHRI ANIL BASU:** Sir, from my experience, I can tell that the role of the Ministry and the National Literacy Mission to eradicate illiteracy in our country is laudable. My district has been declared as a fully literate district in the very recent days. From my experience, we see that in the post-literacy campaign, the main problem is with the books which are required to uplift the level of the literacy. The books should be available in the mother tongue and our information is that at the National Literacy Mission the

types of books which are required for the post-literacy drive, are not available in different Indian languages. I would like to know whether the Ministry has taken any step so that the post-literacy campaign which is going on, is not hampered for paucity of books in different Indian languages.

[Translation]

**KUMARI SELJA:** We have already paid attention towards what has been said by the hon. Member. There is the State Resource Centre for it. We do not supply books from here. Our purpose is to decentralise the scheme. We want that the State Governments should get the books printed in Children's mother tongue. Therefore they supply books as it suits them.

#### WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTION

[English]

#### Production of Sugarcane

\*105. SHRI V. KRISHNA RAO:  
SHRI K.G. SHIVAPPA:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the production of sugarcane has increased considerably this year as compared to the last year;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether there is an increase in the per hectare yield of sugarcane in the recent times as compared to the last two years;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the details of per hectare yield of sugarcane in each State at present?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI BALRAM JAKHAR): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The production of sugarcane during current year i.e. 1994-95 is presently assessed at 245 million tonnes as compared to 227 million tonnes during 1993-94.

(c) and (d) The yield per hectare for sugarcane during 1994-95 is presently estimated to be 666 quintal as against 671 quintals in 1993-94 and 638 quintals in 1992-93.

(e) The per hectare yield of sugarcane in each of the major producing States during 1993-94 (Final) and 1994-95 (Provisional) is shown in enclosed statement.

#### STATEMENT

Yield Rate (kg./ha) under sugarcane crop in major states during 1993-94 & 1994-95

State	1993-94	1994-95(Provisional)
Andhra Pradesh	77315	67158
Assam	38377	41667
Bihar	36680	21647
Gujarat	79689	85040