

etc. have been introduced in selected secondary schools in the country.

[English]

### **Fencing of Delhi Ridge**

721. SHRI V. SREENIVASA PRASAD : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Supreme Court has directed the Delhi Ridge Management Board to fence the entire ridge area;

(b) if so, the total area of ridge fenced since then;

(c) whether a large number of private organisations are still encroaching the ridge area;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the concrete steps taken to free the ridge area from encroachers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN AFFAIRS AND EMPLOYMENT (DEPARTMENT OF URBAN EMPLOYMENT AND POVERTY ALLEVIATION) AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI S.S. AHLUWALIA) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) As per the reports received from the Government of National Capital Territory of Delhi and other agencies, approx. 2275 running metres of barbed wire fencing has been done. The work of fencing by various land managing agencies is under progress and the total area fenced can be ascertained only on completion.

(c) and (d). No fresh encroachments have taken place after the Supreme Court's decision.

(e) Steps have already been taken by various land managing agencies to remove the encroachments from the ridge and protect the ridge from further encroachments as per directions of the Supreme Court, which is continuously monitoring the progress.

### **Gauge Conversion**

722. SHRI DATTATRAYA BANDARU : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether all works relating to Gauge Conversion were awarded on lowest tender basis during the last three years; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SURESH KALMADI) : (a) No, Sir. However, all tenders have been awarded in accordance with the laid down procedures in this regard.

(b) Does not arise.

[Translation]

### **Rural Women**

723. SHRI RAM PRASAD SINGH :  
SHRI HARIN PATHAK :

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is need to stress on the concerns of the women;

(b) if so, whether concrete steps have been taken to improve the lot of rural women and to conduct any national and State level study to prepare a detailed report thereon;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether any decision regarding the participation of voluntary organisations and private sector has been taken to solve this acute national problem; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DEPARTMENT OF WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT) (KUMARI VIMLA VERMA) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c). The Government is making continuous efforts to improve the lot of rural women. Schemes for poverty eradication like Integrated Rural Development Programme, Jawahar Rozgar Yojana, Development of Women and Children in Rural Areas, Support to Training and Employment Programme for Women, Indira Mahila Yojana, Mahila Samridhhi Yojana, Rashtriya Mahila Kosh, Training of Rural Youth for Self-Employment are being implemented with rural women as a major target group. Schemes for housing and shelter, educational infrastructure, health care system, support services like child care facilities, schemes for provision of drinking water and sanitation, conservation of the environ-