

Calcutta & Bangalore to promote regional languages in various parts of the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government also propose to open such regional offices in Chandigarh, Jammu and Shimla for the promotion of Punjabi, Kashmiri and Degri/Urdu etc.;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

**THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI ARJUN SINGH):** (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The National Book Trust has opened regional offices at Bombay, Calcutta and Bangalore to promote its publications and to undertake book promotion activities.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

(e) The entire northern region, including Punjab, Jammu & Kashmir and Himachal Pradesh, is looked after by the head office of the National Book Trust which is situated at New Delhi.

### **Ecological Task Force**

8975. **PROF. PREM DHUMAL:** Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have any proposal for creating an Ecological Task Force based on Ex-servicemen in Himachal Pradesh;

(b) if so, whether the proposal has been approved; and

(c) if not, the steps being taken by the Government in this regard?

**THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT & FORESTS (SHRI KAMAL NATH):** (a) to (c). A proposal to set up an Ecological Task Force was received from the Government of Himachal Pradesh. The proposal is being considered in the light of availability of funds during the Eighth Plan period.

### **Extension of Jammu - Tawi and Navjivan Expresses**

8976. **SHRIMATI BHAVNACHIKHLIA:** Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Jammu -Tawi and Navajivan Expresses are proposed to be extended upto Hapa and Rajkot;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not the reasons therefor?

**THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MALLIKARJUN):** (a) to (c). 2981/2982 Jammu Tawi-Ahmadabad Bi- weekly Sarvodaya Express will be extended once a week to from Rajkot from July'92. Extension of 2641/2642 Madras Ahmadabad Navjivan Express to/from Hapa/Rajkot & 2981/2982 Jammu Tawi-Ahmadabad Sarvodaya Express to from Hapa is not feasible at present due to operational difficulties and resource constraints.

[Translation]

### **Conversion of Samastipur - Darbhanga Railway Line**

8977. **SHRI BHOGENDRA JHA:** Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to

state the steps taken so far to convert the railway line of Samastipur -Darbhanga into broad-gauge and the works planned to be undertaken by the end of the current financial year?

**THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MALLIKARJUN):** It has been decided to restart the work of conversion of Samastipur -Darbhanga Metre Gauge into Broad Gauge and preliminary arrangement will be taken up in 92-93. However, keeping in view the need to cause minimum dislocation to train services and to reduce inconvenience to the traveling public it will be possible to actually take up conversion of this Metre Gauge section only after Muzaffarpur -Raxaul has been converted into Broad Gauge which has been included in the Budget for 92-93.

[English]

#### Meeting on Environment

8978. **SHRI NAWAL KISHORE RAI:** Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether a meeting of Government and Non-government Organisations on environment was held in Delhi on April 21, 1992;

(b) if so, the main recommendations made at the meeting;

(c) the reaction of the Government thereto;

(d) whether the Government have received any representations from Eco-health Non-government Organisations for effective participation and association in this work; and

(e) if so, the action being taken by the Government in this regard?

**THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI KAMAL NATH):** (a) This Ministry is not aware of any such meeting held in Delhi on April 21, 1992.

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

(d) No, Sir.

(e) Does not arise.

#### Per Capita Amount For Education

8979. **SHRI ANNA JOSHI:**  
**SHRI CHETAN P.S.**  
**CHAUHAN:**

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

(a) the per capita amount proposed to be spent on education during the Eighth Five Year Plan,

(b) whether there is any proposal to grant special central assistance during the plan period to the States where the percentage of literacy is below the national average;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

**THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI ARJUN SINGH):** (a) The anticipated per capita expenditure during Eighth Five Year Plan is not available as Eighth Five Year Plan is yet to be finalised.

(b) to (d). Assistance is being provided to state Government for organising total literacy campaigns based on specific proposals furnished to the National Literacy Mission.