

Urdu and making these available at prices well within the means of the book reading public;

- (ii) encouraging the publication of reasonably priced books for higher education by providing financial assistance to authors and publishers of textbooks and reference book for the a diploma, undergraduate and postgraduate levels;
- (iii) providing assistance for the publication of books for children and for neo-literates;
- (iv) promoting books and the book reading habit all over the country through book fairs, festivals and exhibitions, including the New Delhi World Book Fair, and through seminars, symposia and workshops;
- (v) providing financial assistance to registered voluntary organisations for holding book exhibitions/affairs;
- (vi) sponsoring celebration of National Book Week on an all India scale, involving educational institutions, libraries, authors, booksellers, publishers, etc;
- (vii) implementing a scheme for setting up Readers' Club in schools with a view to mobilising teachers and motivating students to read and discuss books;
- (viii) promoting Indian books abroad by organising India's

participation in international book fairs held in different parts of the world.

[English]

Voluntary Disclosure Scheme Regarding Violation of Environment Laws

2651. SHRI SRIBALLAV PANIGRAHI: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government propose to introduce a voluntary disclosure scheme whereby industries can disclose their violations of environment laws or safeguards;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the concessions/ incentives proposed to be given under the scheme?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI KAMAL NATH): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c). The proposal is under preparation.

Deforestation in Maharashtra

262. SHRI ANNA JOSHI: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) the area covered by natural forests in Maharashtra;

(b) whether the Union Government are aware of large scale deforestation in the State; and

(c) if so, the steps being taken to check mass destruction of forests in Maharashtra?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI KAMAL NATH): (a) The present forest area in Maharashtra State is 63,842 Sq. Kms.

(b) No case of large scale deforestation has been reported from the State. However, cases of illicit felling of trees as and when detected, have been dealt with in accordance with the provisions of the Law.

(c) In order to check illicit cutting of trees, the State Government have taken the following steps;

- (i) Field staff and the supervisory staff organise intensive patrolling and checking of forest areas.
- (ii) Presently, there are 'vigilance cells' in 8 circles and Mobile Squads in each Forest Division, especially to control illicit fellings.
- (iii) Constitution of Forest Protection Force in each Division has been sanctioned by Maharashtra Government.
- (iv) In addition, a Centrally Sponsored Scheme is under implementation for development of infrastructure for protection of forests against biotic interference.

Literacy Rate

2653. DR. LAXMINARAYAN PANDEYA:
SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE:

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

(a) the literacy rate in the country as per 1981 and 1991 Census, State-wise, males and females separately;

(b) what was the rate of literacy expected to be achieved by the end of the seventh Plan period and how it compares with the actual rate of literacy achieved; and

(c) the target fixed for the year 1991-92 in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI ARJUN SINGH): (a) A statement indicating the literacy rate in the country, state-wise and for males and females separately, according to 1981 and 1991 Census is attached.

(b) The literacy data in the country is collected through the decennial census operations. Whereas no target for achieving any particular literacy rate for the country as a whole was fixed to be achieved by the end of Seventh Five Year Plan, the literacy rate in the country for population aged 7 years and above has increased from 43.56% in 1981 to 52.11% in 1991, registering an increase of 8.55% during the last decade.

(c) Besides continuance of the existing programmes relating to universalisation of elementary education and non-formal education, it is proposed to cover about 25-30 districts under the Total Literacy Campaigns during 1991-92 through the National Literacy Mission, in addition to such campaigns having already been undertaken in the entire States of Goa and Kerala, U. T. of Pondicherry, 100 talukas in Gujarat and 42 districts in various states during 1990-91.