

[*Translation*]

### **National Book Trust**

3212. SHRI GIRDHARI LAL BHARGAVA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the objective of establishing National Book Trust, India was to develop interest among people towards books;

(b) if so, whether the Trust has been able to achieve that objective; and

(c) if so, the efforts made to develop interest among people towards books?

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 RESOURCES DEVELOPMENT (PROF. M.G.K. MENON):

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) The efforts made by the Trust to develop interest in books among people are:—

— Publication of books at reasonable prices in well-defined series in various Indian Languages and English

— Provision of assistance to private publishers and voluntary agencies for bringing out books for children and adults including students at the higher education level and neo-literates;

— Arranging book Fairs, exhibitions and festivals in the country at different levels.

— Provision of assistance to voluntary agencies to hold book exhibitions and fairs in the country.

— Facilitation of participation in International Book Fairs.

### **Proposal to formulate book policy**

3213. SHRI GIRDHARI LAL BHARGAVA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the prices of books on literary and historical and research have crossed the purchasing power of readers during last three decades;

(b) whether the book industry has become dependent on Government purchases; and

(c) if so, whether Government propose to formulate book policy?

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 RESOURCES DEVELOPMENT (PROF. M.G.K. MENON):

(a) There has been substantial increase in general in the prices of books, and of literary, historical and research works in particular during the last three decades.

(b) For the sale of library editions of literary, historical and research works, the book industry receives substantial support and orders from Central and State Governments and Universities.

(c) Government Books policy has been spelt out in the National policy on Education, (NPE) 1986 which says "Efforts will be made to secure easy accessibility to books for all segments of the population. Measures will be taken to improve the quality of books,