

[*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,

promote the reading habits and encourage creative writings". NPE (1986) will be reviewed, for which modalities are being worked out.

### **Literacy rate among Scheduled Tribes**

3214. SHRI NANDLAL MEENA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the number of literate persons in various states and the State-wise percentage of literate people belonging to Scheduled Tribes; and

(b) the measures being taken by Government to bring Scheduled Tribes at par with others so far as literacy is concerned?

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) A Statement showing State-wise total number of literacy rate amongst Scheduled Tribes, based on the 1981 Census, is attached.

(b) Universalisation of elementary education, universal retention of children upto 14 years of age and imparting functional literacy to 80 million adult illiterate in 15-35 age-group by 1995 from an integral part of a large programme to eradicate illiteracy, including amongst persons belonging to scheduled castes and scheduled tribes

and women. Some of the specific steps being taken to raise the literacy level among persons belonging to scheduled tribes are as under:—

- (i) Under the programme of 'Operation Blackboard', preference in selection of blocks is given to those which are educationally disadvantaged and have concentration of persons belonging to Scheduled Tribes.
- (ii) Under non-formal education programme, preference is given to opening Centres in hilly, desert and tribal areas. States/UTs have been advised to utilise at least 20% of the allocation under non-formal education programme on scheduled tribes,
- (iii) States/UTs have been advised to accord priority to hamlets of scheduled tribes in opening adult education centres;
- (iv) Funds have been earmarked under Tribal Sub-Plan in respect of the Scheme of Rural Functional Literacy Projects; and
- (v) In the matter of selection of Instructors, both under the Non-formal Education as well as Adult Education programmes, persons belonging to Scheduled Tribes community are to be given a preference.