

(b) if so, whether it has resulted in the creation of surplus staff in some offices; and

(c) whether there is any plan to reduce the strength of the group 'B', 'C' and 'D' staff to 20 percent of the existing strength due to computerisation; and if so, the facts and details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (DR. RAJA RAMANNA): (a) There are at present 14 computer centres but there is no large scale computerisation in the Department.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) No, Sir.

#### Forest Cover

4845. SHRI ANAND SINGH: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a vast disparity between the extent of forest cover in the country as per revenue records and as per satellite pictures;

(b) the details of estimates of forest cover as per revenue records and satellite pictures;

(c) the reasons for this disparity; and

(d) the steps being taken to ensure restoration of ecological balance that has resulted with the depreciation of forest areas shown as such as per revenue records?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND MINISTER OF STATE IN DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (PROF. M.G.K. MENON): (a) to (c). The area under forests as per revenue records for the year 1982-83 was 67.16

million hectares. The extent of forest cover in the country during the period 1981-83 as assessed by a study of the Forest Survey of India using satellite imagery was 64.20 million hectares. The difference in the two figures is due to the fact that while revenue records show legally recorded forest area, irrespective of forest cover, the satellite imagery shows only the area under forest cover irrespective of its legal status.

(d) Ecological balance can be restored by protection of forest lands and reforestation of degraded forest areas.

For protection, Forest (Conservation) Act was enacted in 1980 to check diversion of forest land for non-forest purposes. The Act has been made more stringent by an amendment of 1988. Also, the National Forest Policy, 1988 lays more emphasis on conservation of forests. There are specific provisions of protection of forests from grazing, fires and encroachment. Besides, alternative sources of energy, wood substitution and import of timber are encouraged to conserve forests. In addition, guidelines are issued to State/UT Governments from time to time for protection and conservation of forests and wildlife. Some of these relate to avoiding felling of natural forests, ban fellings in the hills above 1,000 metres, and setting apart 4 percent of the geographical area as protection area.

For afforestation, wasteland development programme is being implemented for reforestation of degraded forest lands and restoration of ecological balance.

#### Meeting of JCM Council, KV

4846. SHRI RAJ MANGAL MISHRA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the council formulated under Joint Consultative Machinery, Kendriya

Vidyalaya Sangathan is scheduled to meet in near future; and

(b) if so, the details of its agenda?

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 RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (PROF. M.G.K. MENON): (a) and (b). The meeting of the Council under the Joint Consultative Machinery in the Kendriya Vidyalaya Sangathan has not been scheduled, as the employees' organisations are not agreed on distribution of membership amongst themselves.

#### **Eradication of Corruption**

4847. SHRI KAILASH MEGHWAL: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have initiated concrete and effective measures for eradication of corruption at all administrative levels in the Ministries/Departments and in all public concerns; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE PRIME MINISTER (SHRI VISHWANATH PRATAP SINGH): (a) and (b). Yes, Sir. Eradication of corruption is a continuous process. Effective, administrative and legislative measures as are considered necessary will continue to be adopted in the fight against corruption. A comprehensive prevention of Corruption Act, 1988 was brought, in making the provisions of the existing Anti-Corruption Laws more effective. A three-pronged strategy i.e. Preventive, Surveillance and Detection and Deterrent Punitive action is continued to fight corruption at all administrative levels. The Lokpal Bill 1989 has been introduced in Parliament for containing corruption at high political levels.

#### **Afforestation in Rajasthan**

4848. SHRI GIRDHARI LAL BHARGAVA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether, as a part of the social forestry programme, afforestation scheme was launched in hundred fuelwood and fodder deficit districts to meet the basic requirements of the community; and

(b) if so, the names of such districts in Rajasthan?

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 RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (PROF. M.G.K. MENON): (a) Centrally Sponsored 'Social Forestry including Rural Fuelwood Plantations' Scheme was launched in 1980, initially in 101 fuelwood deficit districts in the country. The scheme was subsequently extended to cover 58 other districts.

(b) The districts covered under the Scheme in Rajasthan are Jaipur, Udaipur, Bharatpur, Alwar, Bilwara, Ajmer, Banswara, Jhunjhunu, Kota and Sawaimadhopur.

[*Translation*]

#### **Rivers Polluted during Kumbh Melas**

4849. SHRISATYANARAYANJATIYA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the steps being taken by Government to save river water used for drinking from pollution, especially those rivers where people bathe during "Kumbh Melas"; and

(b) the steps proposed to be taken to save Shipra river in Ujjain, Madhya Pradesh