

- iii) Development of National Parks and Wildlife Sanctuaries.
- iv) Protection of Forests from biotic interference.
- v) Afforestation under soil conservation scheme.
- vi) Sandal Regeneration.

Involvement of Voluntary Agencies In Environmental Programmes

5008. SHRI SRIKANTHA DATTA NARASIMHARAJA WADIYAR: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to involve voluntary agencies/Organisations to check environmental degradation, and pollution control programmes;

(b) if so, whether Government have examined the background of the voluntary organisations proposed to be engaged in such work; and

(c) the details of steps proposed to be taken to create awareness among the people regarding need to restore ecology and control pollution?

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). Yes, Sir. Voluntary organisations are being involved in the implementation of several programmes like National Environment Awareness Campaign, Wastelands Development through afforestation, Ganga Action Plan, Eco-development Camps, Field Demonstration Projects, organisation of technical seminar/symposia etc., after assessing the capability of such organisations.

(c) The Ministry, since 1986, has been conducting a national Environment Awareness Campaign involving voluntary organisations, educational institutions, State Departments of Environment, Media personnel, professionals etc. with the aim of creating environmental awareness at national level for the conservation and protection of environment.

[*Translation*]

Setting up of Girls Hostels

5009. SHRI RAJVEER SINGH: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether due to inadequate number of girls hostels in women colleges, many girls are deprived of college education; and

(b) if so, the steps taken by Government in this regard?

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). Department of Education and the University Grants Commission have not received specific information that inadequacy of hostel facilities have deprived many girl students of college education. The University Grants Commission is infact, providing assistance to Universities/Colleges for construction of hostels. For women's hostels, the UGC meets 75% of the actual expenditure of construction as against 50% in the case of men's hostels.

[*English*]

Study Centres of Indira Gandhi Open University

5010. SHRI GANGA CHARAN LODHI: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state: