

Illiteracy in Adivasi Area of Gujarat

3161. SHRI AMARSINGH V. RATHAWA: Will the Minister of EDUCATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there is a great illiteracy in Adivasi area of Gujarat State; and

(b) if so, the measures taken by the Government to open more primary schools in that area to remove this evil from the country?

THE MINISTER OF EDUCATION AND HEALTH AND SOCIAL WELFARE (SHRI B. SHANKARANAND):

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) According to Tribal area Sub-Plan (1974—79), the State Government has a plan to open new primary schools in Adivasi area of Gujarat State.

Pollution of Ganga Water

3162. SHRI K. LAKKAPPA:

SHRI H. N. NANJE GOWDA: Will the Minister of WORKS AND HOUSING be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Ganga water has become polluted due to presence of dead bodies and half burnt bodies in the river; and

(b) if so, what remedial steps Government propose to take to avoid this pollution?

THE MINISTER OF WORKS AND HOUSING (SHRI P. C. SETHI): (a) Although pollution load contributed by dead bodies and half burnt bodies in the river Ganga has not been measured yet the contribution by these two factors is insignificant.

(b) The Government of India have enacted the Water (Prevention, and Control of Pollution) Act, 1974 with a view to preventing and Controlling Water Pollution and maintaining and restoring the wholesomeness of Water in the country. Under the provisions of the Act, the Central Government has established the Central Board for the Prevention and Control of Water Pollution to function as an apex body

at national level and the State Board in respect of Union Territories. Similarly various State Governments have also set up State Boards for the Prevention and Control of Water Pollution.

Hostel for S.T. and S.C. Students in Rural Areas

3163. SHRI KUNWAR RAM: Will the Minister of EDUCATION be pleased to state what is the pattern of assistance in case any social organisation constructs Hostels for S.T. and S.C. students in Rural areas?

THE MINISTER OF EDUCATION AND HEALTH AND SOCIAL WELFARE (SHRI B. SHANKARANAND): There is no scheme of the Ministry of Education under which assistance is given for construction of Hostels for Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribe students. However, there is a Centrally sponsored scheme for Hostels for Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribe girl students operated by the Ministry of Home Affairs. Under their scheme, in so far as voluntary organisations are concerned, financial assistance is given for the additional expansion of the existing hostels only. The organisations are required to contribute 10 per cent of the total approved cost of the scheme.

Conversion of Manual Exchange at Sambalpur as Auto-Exchange

3164. DR KRUPASINDHU BHOI: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal in his Ministry to convert the present Manual Telephone Exchange at Sambalpur to Auto-Exchange; and

(b) if so, the time schedule for completion of the programme?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI C. M. STEPHEN): (a) and (b). The establishment of an auto-exchange at Sambalpur has been approved in principle. It has however, not been possible so far to allot