

(a) whether Government propose to revamp the Planning Commission; and

(b) if so, the details thereof ?

THE PRIME MINISTER (SHRI VISHWANATH PRATAP SINGH): (a) and (b). Government have already reconstituted the Planning Commission, inducting Members from a wide range of disciplines relevant to the planning process.

Share of Income for Tribals from the Forest Produce

971. SHRI PRAKASH V. PATIL: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government propose to permit the tribals to share the income from the forest produce on the doctrine of their right on the forest produce;

(b) if so, the details in this regard; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRIMATI MANEKA GANDHI): (a) to (c). There is no proposal under consideration of the Central Government to permit the tribals to share the income from the forest produce on the doctrine of their right on the forest produce. The National Forest Policy, 1988 lays down that the rights and concessions from forests should primarily be for the bonafide use of the local communities, especially the tribals. The policy further states that in view of the symbiotic relationship between the tribal people and forests they should be closely associated in the protection, regeneration and development of forests. It also states that contractors should be replaced by institutions such as tribal cooperatives, labour cooperatives,

Government Corporations, etc. as early as possible.

Literacy among Women

972. SHRI PRAKASH V. PATIL: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the percentage of women in the country who are illiterate; and

(b) the steps Government propose to take to increase literacy among women and expand educational opportunities for them ?

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) According to 1981 census, the percentage of illiterate women in the country is 75.18%.

(b) The National Policy on Education lays emphasis on removal of disparities in access to educational opportunities suffered by women. Some of the recent strategies initiated to promote women's education through-out the country, with emphasis on women in rural and tribal areas, include the following :-

- (i) *Mahila Samakhyas*: The basic thrust of this programme is to create a mechanism whereby women are given an opportunity to plan and monitor their own education and reach out to a new body of knowledge. It aims at involving women in the process of education planning at the village level and providing education inputs like non-formal education centres, training of school teachers and production of educational material. This project has been