

(a) whether Indira Gandhi National Open University aims at taking education to the remotest corner of the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the details of steps Indira Gandhi National Open University propose to take to achieve its aim?

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) (b). One of the aims of the Indira Gandhi National Open University (IGNOU) is to provide access to higher education to large segments of the population, and in particular, the disadvantaged groups such as those living in remote and rural areas.

(c) Indira Gandhi National Open University has established a network of Student Support Services through-out the country. This consists of 133 Study Centres which are coordinated by 13 Regional Centre. A number of IGNOU's Study Centres are located in remote areas. During the year 1990-91, IGNOU proposes to set up several new Study Centres including a Mobile Centre. Some of these are likely to be in remote areas of the country.

#### **Cheaper Methods of Satellite Launching**

1048. SHRI PRATAPRAO B. BHOSALE: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether requests have been made to Government to explore new methods for reducing costs involved in launching satellite;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps Government propose to take 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 RESOURCES DEVELOPMENT (PROF. M.G.K. MENON):

(a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c). Do not arise.

#### **Special Development Facilities to Backward Hill Areas**

1049. SHRI PRATAPRAO B. BHOSALE: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether requests have been received by Government for extension of special developmental facilities to the backward hill area;

(b) whether Government propose to provide these facilities to the people of backward hill areas of Maharashtra also;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE PRIME MINISTER (SHRI VISHWANATH PRATAP SINGH): (a) to (d). Requests from a number of States have been received from time to time for inclusion of new hill areas in the Hill Area Development Programme (HADP). Under this programme, Central Government gives special Central Assistance to supplement States' effort for bringing about socio-economic development of the hill people. The development of hill areas is basically the responsibility of the concerned States Governments.

In order to evolve criteria for the definition of hill areas and to identify new hill