

Forces and the details of their functions;

(b) whether the Government propose to deploy such forces all over the country; and

(c) if so, the proposed location thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI KAMAL NATH): (a) The Eco-Task Forces are currently operational in Uttar Pradesh Rajasthan and Jammu & Kashmir. The total strength is 1059.

These Task Forces have been set up on a pilot basis to utilize the services of ex-service personnel for the tasks of eco-development in difficult terrain. The main functions include eco-development activities such as nursery raising, tree planting, soil and moisture conservation works.

(b) and (c). The existing Eco-Task Forces have been established to take up eco-development tasks only in identified difficult problematic locations.

[Translation]

Autonomous Colleges

*197. SHRIMATI SHEELA GAUTAM:
SHRI RAJESH KUMAR:

Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the directives issued by the University Grants Commission to the Universities and State Governments regarding the scheme of autonomous colleges;

(b) the State Governments and Universities that have so far responded positively to this scheme; and

(c) the total number of colleges that are proposed to be given Autonomous status?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI ARJUN SINGH): (a) to (c). The National Policy on Education 1986 provided for development of autonomous colleges. In pursuance of this, in 1987 UGC circulated detailed guidelines for the implementation of the Scheme of Autonomous Colleges and has addressed letters from time to time to State Governments requesting them to make efforts to implement the Autonomous Colleges. The number of Autonomous Colleges in different States and the Universities to which they were affiliated is given in the attached statement.

According to the information furnished by UGC, proposals from six colleges for grant of autonomous status are under consideration of the Commission. The Commission has decided to continue the Scheme of Autonomous Colleges in the Eighth Five Year Plan and autonomous status would be conferred on all colleges which satisfy the prescribed criteria.

STATEMENT

State	Name of the University	Number of Autonomous Colleges
Andhra Pradesh	1) Andhra University	7
	2) Nagarjuna University	2
	3) Osmania University	6

<i>State</i>	<i>Name of the University</i>	<i>Number of Autonomous Colleges</i>
	4) Sri Venkateswara University	1
Gujarat	1) Saurashtra University	1
	2) Gujarat University	1
Madhya Pradesh	1) Ravi Shankar University	7
	2) Dr. Hari Singh Gaur	2
	3) Devi Ahilya	2
	4) Bhopal	1
	5) Guru Ghasi Das	5
	6) Jiwaji	3
	7) Rani Durgawati	5
	8) Vikram	1
	9) Awadesh Pratap Singh	1
Orissa	1) Sambalpur University	3
	2) Utkal University	1
	3) Behrampur	1
Rajasthan	1) Rajasthan University	4
	2) Ajmer University	1
Tamil Nadu	1) Bharthiar University	6
	2) Pharathidasan	11
	3) Madras	15
	4) Madurai Kamraj	12
Uttar Pradesh	1) Allahabad	1
	2) Purvanchal	1