

and technical courses through distance education system have already been introduced in open universities.

According to Indira Gandhi National Open University which is the apex body for distance education, the vocational/technical/employment oriented programmes which are being offered at present and the further programmes proposed to be offered by various Open Universities in the Eighth Plan are as follows :

Name of Open University	No. of Programmes on offer	No. of Programmes proposed to be offered in the Eighth Plan
Indira Gandhi National Open University	12	13
Dr. B.R. Ambedkar Open University	4	13
Yashwant Rao Chavan Maharashtra Open University	4	25
Kota Open University	7	10

[English]

CATTLE FEED INDUSTRY

208. SHRI MANORANJAN BHAKTA : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to reserve certain quantity of molasses for cattle feed manufacturing units;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government propose to review the proposed decontrol of molasses keeping in view the interest of cattle feed industry;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the steps proposed to be taken by the Government for the smooth supply of molasses to cattle feed industry ?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (DR. BALRAM JAKHAR) : (a) No Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) No Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

(e) The Molasses Control Order, 1961 has been rescinded with a view to make molasses available freely without any control of prices and distribution to All Molasses consuming units including cattle feed units.

[Translation]

CENSUS OF WILD ANIMALS

*209. SHRI DAU DAYAL JOSHI :
SHRI SHRAVAN KUMAR
PATEL :

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state :

(a) whether a fresh census of major wild animal species including tigers, lions, elephants and rhinos has lately been held;

(b) if so, the details thereof, species wise;

(c) whether several parks and sanctuaries show a decline in wild life population;

(d) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor, and

(e) the steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Government to increase wild-life population ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI KAMAL NATH) : (a) and (b) The census of major wild animals like tigers, lions, elephants and rhinos etc. is carried out by the State Government from time to time. During first part of 1993, census of tigers, elephants and Rhinos was undertaken by the State Governments concerned. The latest census figures available for major wild animals are given in the statement I attached.

(c) and (d) No State Government has reported an overall decline in wildlife population in its parks and sanctuaries. However, the fluctuation in the population of wildlife in general, in its natural habitat, is a normal biological phenomenon.