

DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) the steps being taken to evolve national norms regarding teacher-pupil ratio so that the twin strategies, namely rationalisation of existing teacher-pupil ratios and optimisation of teacher-pupil ratios, as suggested in the Report of the National Institute of Educational Planning and Administration, can be implemented effectively ; and

(b) the efforts being made at national level for bringing about a qualitative change in the education of growing number of children ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF EDUCATION AND CULTURE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI L.P. SHAHI) : (a) The National workshop organised by the National Institute of Educational Planning and Administration (NIEPA) on 28-29th October, 1986, had alongwith other aspects, suggested certain norms for teaching staff for primary and upper primary stages of education. These norms are for consideration of the State/ Union Territories and are not the prescribed national norms.

(b) At the national level efforts have been made by the National Council of Educational Research and Training (NCERT) to support activities for qualitative improvements of education. These are :

- (i) re-orientation of the present practices of the development of instructional material with a view to making it child centred,
- (ii) re-orientation of pre-service and in-service teacher education programmes,
- (iii) reform of examinations for making them a powerful instrument of improving teaching and learning,
- (iv) provision of essential facilities to all schools and non-formal centres, education through support to programmes like 'operation black-board',
- (v) extensive utilization of mass media and educational technology ; and

(vi) participation of local communities in educational ventures.

#### Afforestation Programme

2363. SHRI VIJAY N. PATIL : Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state :

(a) the targets achieved so far under afforestation programme during the year 1987-88 ;

(b) whether Government have sought scientific knowledge from USA and other countries in the matter of conservation of forests ; and

(c) if so, the forest areas in the country where such scientific technique in afforestation programme is likely to be implemented ?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI Z.R. ANSARI) : (a) Total area covered under the afforestation programme in 1987-88 is reported to be about 1.77 million hectares.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

#### Libraries at Village Level to Encourage Adult Literacy

2364. SHRI NITYANANDA MISRA : Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether to encourage programme of adult literacy Government have drawn up any scheme to set up libraries at village level ; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and when this scheme is going to be launched ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF EDUCATION AND CULTURE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI L.P. SHAHI) : (a) and (b). A scheme of Jana Shikshan Nilayam has been formulated under the National Literacy Mission which primarily aims at institutionalising post-literacy and continuing education for the benefit of the neo-literates of adult education programme ; pass outs of non-formal education programmes and primary