

**Standard of Education in
Universities/Colleges**

671. SHRI SHANKER PRASAD JAISWAL : Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are considering to take some steps to improve the education standard in Universities and Colleges;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government propose to make it compulsory for the students to undertake one year social science course before awarding them degree; and

(d) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT AND MINISTER OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI) (a) and (b) In pursuance of National Policy on Education Government and UGC have taken several steps to improve academic standards in the Universities. Some of the major steps taken for the purpose are as follows :—

- Revision of pay scales of college and university teachers w.e.f. 1.1.1986. Further revision has become due w.e.f. 1.1.1996. However, the new scales are yet to be implemented due to certain problems. Opportunities provided for training and career advancement for teachers. All-India Eligibility Test introduced to attract best talent to the teaching profession.
- Academic staff colleges established for re-orientation of newly appointed university and college teachers.
- 27 Curriculum Development Centres in Sciences and Humanities established to modernise curricula. Model curricula has been prepared for 27 disciplines in undergraduate and postgraduate courses.
- Financial assistance provided by UGC for improvement of teaching and research under Special Assistance Programmes.
- Inter-University Centres established by UGC to provide front-line facilities and services for advancement of research in the university system.
- High priority given to grant of autonomy to selected colleges.
- Guidelines for implementation of an Academic Calendar circulated. These guidelines emphasize observance of at least 180 teaching days by universities/colleges.
- Regulations for minimum standards for the

award of first degree minimum working days etc. notified by UGC.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

[English]

**Violation of Forest (Conservation)
Act, 1980**

672. SHRI SURESH CHANDEL : Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state :

(a) the action taken by the Ministry pertaining to the matters of encroachment of Reserve Forest, Khas Forest Lands, its transfer in the name of private persons and sale of the same in North Sikkim;

(b) whether as per the spot enquiry and verification report by the Chief Conservator of Forests, Eastern Zone, Bhubaneswar, the encroachments are confirmed;

(c) the action taken by the Government for this gross violation of F.C.A. 1980.

(d) the action taken by the State Government in this respect so far; and

(e) the action taken by the Government in this regard so far on the assurance given in the Parliament?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI BABU LAL MARANDI) . (a) and (b) On receipt of information relating to the encroachment of reserve Forests, Khas Forest Lands, its transfer in the name of private persons and sale of the same in North Sikkim, the Chief Conservator of Forests, Eastern Zone, Bhubaneswar was asked to conduct enquiry. The report indicates *prima facie* violation of the provisions of Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980

(c) The Central Government has sought the comments of the State Government on the relevant portions of the report of the Chief Conservator of Forests, Bhubaneswar. State Government has submitted only an interim report. Final report is still awaited.

(d) and (e) The Central Government has taken up the matter once again at the Chief Secretary level for expediting the comments.

**Policy for Allotment of Chambers to
Advocates**

673. SHRI E. AHAMED: Will the Minister of LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to refer to the reply given to Unstarred Question No. 470 on November 21, 1997 and state

(a) whether the Registry of the Supreme Court has since prepared any policy regarding the allotment of the chambers to its advocates;