

animals and birds are reported from different parts of the country.

(c) to (f) A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement

(c) Analogous to the Centre, the States have also been asked to set up coordination committees of all enforcement agencies so that there is effective cooperation to check poaching and control illegal trade. Staff in National Parks and Sanctuaries are being provided modern arms, wireless equipment, and communication facilities. The Planning Commission is also being pursued to revive the Centrally sponsored scheme in the IX plan for control of poaching and illegal trade, which was earlier transferred to the State Sector in 1992-93. This will enable the Central Government to effectively support the States in their efforts to control poaching and illegal trade in wildlife.

(d) to (f) The Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972 as amended in 1991 is a comprehensive legislation which empowers the State Governments/UTs to have better control over the management of wildlife and protection of the endangered species of flora and fauna. The amended Act is a step further towards providing greater protection to wildlife, and has enhanced the punishment for violations. The law also covers commercial trade.

Pollution on Sea Beaches

*70. SHRI RANJIB BISWAL : Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are aware of the increasing pollution on the sea beaches in the country; and

(b) if so, the steps taken by the Government to check the same?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI SURESH PRABHU) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The Government have issued the Coastal Regulation Zone (CRZ) Notification, 1991 which lays down stipulations to regulate development activities in coastal areas. Separately standards have been notified for disposal of effluents from land based activities which are being implemented through both the State Pollution Control Boards and the Central Pollution Control Board.

[Translation]

Influences of Media Violence on Children

*71. SHRI CHINTA MOHAN :
SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR SHINDE :

Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state :

(a) whether the attention of the Government has been drawn to the newsitem captioned "Media Violence

influence kids" appearing in the 'Pioneer', dated March 23, 1998;

(b) whether the Government are aware that the programmes telecast by Doordarshan have adverse effect on people specially on the children;

(c) if so, whether the Government propose to evolve a national policy on Television or any legislation for the electronic media including Cable T.V. to check the growing display of violence, crime and obscenity; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING AND MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ) :

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) No, Sir. The news report refers to UNESCO inter cultural study, which was not India-specific, but was global, covering a sample of 5000 pupils in 23 different countries, including India also.

(c) and (d) As of now, Prasar Bharati (Doordarshan) previews all its programmes before they are telecast to ensure that they do not contain any excessive violence or vulgarity which may have adverse effect on the viewers. The preview also ensures that programmes are in accordance with the Programme Code and Advertisement Code. The Government have initiated steps for introducing an Amendment Bill for restoring the provisions of the Prasar Bharati (Broadcasting Corporation of India) Act, 1990, which, *inter alia*, envisages establishment of a Broadcasting Council to monitor all programmes telecast on Doordarshan. The Cable Networks are governed by the provisions of the Cable Television Networks (Regulation) Act, 1995 and the Cable Television Network Rules, 1994. Sections 5 and 6 of the Act require that the programmes/ advertisements carried on channels which can be received only with the help of specialised gadgets/ decoders, adhere to the prescribed Programme/ Advertisement Codes.

[English]

Functioning of Government Run Schools

*72. PROF. AJIT KUMAR MEHTA : Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether any critical study has been made by the Government on the functioning of Government run schools in urban areas with regard to management, facilities available to the students, teacher-student relationship and causes of drop outs;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the remedial measures being contemplated by the Government for the proper functioning of such Schools?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT AND MINISTER OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI) : (a) to (c) Government have not conducted any such study specifically. However, country-wide data collected during the Sixth All India Educational Survey have broadly indicated the existing infrastructural deficiencies at various levels of educational institutions. The details

are given in the enclosed Statement. These have been circulated so that the required remedial measures can be taken. Specific actions would also be considered in discussions with the State Governments in the meeting of the Central Advisory Board on Education (CABE) which is a deliberative body comprising of Education Ministers of all States/UTs and prominent educationists.

Statement
Percentage of Schools having Physical facilities in Urban Areas

Categories of Schools	Management	Drinking Water	Urinals	Lavatories	Pacca Bldg.
1	2	3	4	5	6
Primary	Govt.	46.87	37.69	24.51	65.16
	Local Body	61.51	48.77	37.19	70.72
	Pvt. Aided	81.89	75.55	60.59	66.48
	Pvt. Unaided	95.68	92.81	84.61	84.79
Upper Primary	Govt.	65.17	58.59	46.60	70.63
	Local Body	81.31	72.97	59.49	84.71
	Pvt. Aided	90.76	88.59	75.58	72.58
	Pvt. Unaided	96.65	95.54	89.35	87.56
Secondary	Govt.	85.27	83.80	73.61	72.59
	Local Body	89.98	85.66	77.52	80.72
	Pvt. Aided	96.50	96.17	89.47	84.31
	Pvt. Unaided	97.14	96.59	91.12	86.70
Higher Secondary	Govt.	93.89	94.21	86.53	84.56
	Local Body	97.19	96.79	92.59	90.98
	Pvt. Aided	98.56	98.23	95.68	92.71
	Pvt. Unaided	98.25	98.30	94.94	88.78

Sources : Sixth All India Educational Survey, National Tables Volume II, Schools and Physical Facilities.

Electoral Reforms

*73. SHRI R. SAMBASIVA RAO :
SHRI A.C. JOS

Will the Minister of LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIR be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to bring any legislation to bring reforms in the electoral laws;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the details of proposals and suggestions made to the Government in this regard; and

(d) the steps taken to consider all the pending proposals before introduction of Bill regarding reforms in the electoral law?

THE MINISTER OF LAW JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI M. THAMBI DURAI) : (a) to (d) : A set of 24 proposals on electoral reforms was identified by the Government for discussions with leaders of various political parties. The gist of these proposals is given in the enclosed Statement. The first 17 of these 24 proposals were discussed in the meeting held on 22.05.1998 with leaders of various political parties. In the meeting of political parties, a 7-Member Committee headed by Shri Indrajit Gupta, Member of Parliament, was constituted to suggest concrete measures for State funding of candidates belonging to recognised political parties and other related issues. The Committee is to give its report by the end of August 1998. The recommendations of the Committee and the remaining