

any steps to amend the wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRIMATI MANEKA GANDHI): (a) and (b). Protection of Wildlife in the country is governed under provisions of Wild Life (Protection) Act, 1972. State Governments are competent to take action in respect of breach of this Act. Information about action taken regarding the alleged shooting incident has been sought from the State Government and will be laid on the Table of the House.

(c) and (d). Amendment of Wild Life (Protection) Act, 1972 is under consideration of the Government.

[English]

**National Workshop on Awareness Generation on Girl Child**

6117. SHRI K.S. RAO: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether at the two-day 'national workshop on awareness generation on the girl child' held in New Delhi in February, 1990 experts expressed grave concern over various handicaps of girl child in Indian society; and

(b) if so, the steps proposed to be taken for generation of awareness towards girl child and also to curb the misuse of amniocentesis?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION IN THE

MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (PROF. M.G.K. MENON): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Government is aware of the unequal status of the girl child and of the need to generate awareness to eliminate the existing sex bias in various important spheres such as education, health and nutrition. With this end in view the Central Social Welfare Board has introduced a permanent component regarding the girl child in its Awareness Generation Project. Positive images about the girl child are also being projected through the electronic and print media, video quickies, films, posters and other printed materials and through conferences, workshops and seminars. The Government is also aware of the implications of the misuse of the practice of amniocentesis and has initiated action in this regard.

[Translation]

**Directives to keep Water Free from Pollution**

6118. SHRI SARJU PRASAD SAROJ: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the directives issued by Union Government to State Governments to protect private and public sources of water from pollution and the funds allocated for the purpose, Statewise; and

(b) the action being taken by the Government to ensure that the funds allocated are utilised properly?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRIMATI MANEKA GANDHI): (a) The Water (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1974 provides suitable meas-