

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

[English]

Vocational Education

*902. SHRI A. VJAYARAGHAVAN: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the steps taken and the achievements so far in regard to vocational education have been reviewed by the present Government;

(b) if so, whether the achievements have been found satisfactory;

(c) if the desired objectives have not been achieved, what specific steps are contemplated; and

(d) whether the Government has given any instructions to the States for the vocationalisation of secondary and plus two level education?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI CHIMANBHAI MEHTA): (a) The progress in implementation of the Centrally Sponsored Scheme of Vocationalisation of Secondary Education was reviewed in the National Seminar Organised by the National Council of Educational Research and Training (NCERT), in December 1989. NCERT has also undertaken a "Quick Appraisal" of the Programme in some states in December 1989. The implementation of the Scheme was also reviewed in the Education Secretaries Conference held in January, 1990.

(b) The vocational education programme under the above referred scheme has been under implementation only since February, 1988. Achievements vary from

State to State. While these are satisfactory in so far as coverage of institutions offering Vocational courses and enrolment is concerned there are short falls in some aspects of the programme such as establishment of adequate management system development of instructional materials and training of teachers in the implementing States/UTs.

(c) In the light of the reviews undertaken, the Scheme is being reorganised so as to minimize the problems in its implementation.

(d) School Education is mainly the responsibility of the State Governments/ST Administrations. However, under the above referred Scheme the State Govts/UT Administrations are being encouraged to expand and improve the quality of the programmes. Instructions/guidelines are given to them from time to time for more efficient implementation of the Scheme.

[Translation]

Pollution of Yamuna

*903. SHRI THAN SINGH JATAV: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether sewage water, industrial effluents and waste matter are dumped into Yamuna river in all the cities located on its banks;

(b) if so, the preventive steps taken by Government to check it;

(c) whether water and air are also being polluted by industries in Agra and Mathura; and

(d) if so, the steps being taken to check it?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI NILAMANI ROUFRAY): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The preventive steps taken by Government include:

- (i) Water quality criteria have been formulated for different stretches of the river indicating designated best use.
- (ii) Standards for effluents have been prescribed for water-polluting industries located on the banks of the river.
- (iii) Conditional consents are issued to polluting industries stipulating pollution control measures to be adopted within a designated time-frame.
- (iv) Guidelines have been framed for siting of polluting industries.
- (v) Industrial licenses are given to major grossly polluting industries after environmental clearance.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) The steps taken to check air and water pollution in Agra and Mathura include:

- (i) A trapezoidal protection zone around Agra has been notified restricting the categories of industries that can be established in the zone.
- (ii) The two coal-based thermal power plants in Agra have been closed.
- (iii) Coal engines in the railway marshalling yard have been replaced by diesel engines.

(iv) Some foundries have been shifted downwind of Taj Mahal. All the foundries have been directed to operate only during day time in the winter months. The foundries have been encouraged to switch over to electricity in their furnaces.

(v) The use of diesel generator sets has been severely restricted.

(vi) The Indian Oil Corporation at Mathura has installed sulphur recovery units for recovery of flue gases in the refinery. The refinery has also provided tall stacks of 80-116 metres height for better dispersion of pollutants.

(vii) Units have been advised to use low sulphur fuel to reduce the overall sulphur levels in their gaseous emission.

(viii) Regular monitoring of air and water quality are being undertaken.

(ix) The U. P. Government has taken up works for repair and commissioning of sewage schemes for cities including Agra and Mathura to contain discharge of effluents into the river.

(x) The U. P. Pollution Control Board has directed the industries to install pollution control devices in a time-bound manner and to treat their effluents before discharge into the river.

(xi) Legal action is launched against the recalcitrant units.