

Environment Awareness Campaign is also conducted, since 1986, to generate environmental awareness at national level.

(b) In response to a Model Bill on Soil conservation circulated by the Ministry of Agriculture, 15 States and 2 Union Territories have enacted legislation to promote soil and water conservation activities including conservation of top soil.

Scheme of National Lectureship

*919. SHRI PRAKASH V. PATIL:
SHRI G. S. BASAVARAJ:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the University Grants Commission is considering to discontinue the system of National lectureship with effect from the Eighth Plan;

(b) if so, when was the scheme initiated and how many national lectureships have been awarded so far since its induction;

(c) the main reasons for abolishing the said scheme;

(d) whether in this regard all the State Governments have been consulted; and

(e) whether any new scheme is likely to be introduced?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI CHIMANBHAI MEHTA): (a) to (e). University Grants Commission has a number of faculty improvement programmes which provide opportunities to teachers to keep in touch with modern developments in their fields of study and also to visit other universities/institutions for interaction and exchange of ideas. UGC has informed that the Programme of

National Lectures was instituted in 1970 and 756 awards were made by the Commission between 1970-71 to 1989-90.

According to the Commission, during the 7th Plan, some new schemes have been initiated to promote excellence in standards of teaching and research like establishment of Inter-University Centres, continuing education programmes for teachers, etc. The existing schemes for teachers like Visiting Associateship, National Fellowship and Visiting Professorship were also found to have overlapping elements with the programme of National Lectures. According to the information given by the U.G.C., in view of all these factors, it was decided by the Commission to discontinue the programme of National Lectures from the 8th Plan.

Panel of Scheduled Caste Employees of Delhi Cantonment Board

*920. DR. DAULATRAO SONUJI AHER: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Delhi Cantonment Board has prepared a panel of its Scheduled Caste employees for promotion and other facilities;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) whether it is proposed to give selection grade to the deserving employees in such panel?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (DR. RAJA RAMANNA): (a) to (c). Common seniority lists of each category of employees, including scheduled caste employees, are maintained. These lists are used for preparing panels for promotion of all employees, including scheduled caste employees.

In the Cantonment Board, Delhi, Selec-

tion Grade is being given to teachers only. Promotions to Selection Grade are made only on the basis of seniority-cum-fitness and, as such, no reservation quotas are applicable.

Promotion of Tribal Folk Art and culture

*922. SHRIMATI J. JAMUNA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are rendering any financial assistance to Dance, Drama and Theatre Groups as well as for professional groups for promoting Tribal Folk Art and Culture;

(b) if so, the guidelines of the scheme for grant of assistance;

(c) the names of the institutions or groups which received financial assistance so far under the above schemes and the quantum of assistance received in the last three years;

(d) whether any groups or institutions from the State of Andhra Pradesh received financial assistance during the last three years; and

(e) if not the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI CHIMANBHAI MEHTA): (a) Department of Culture has a Scheme for promotion and dissemination of Tribal and Folk Art and Culture.

(b) Under the Scheme, financial assistance is given to registered Voluntary Organisations, institutions and individuals, - both tribals and non-tribals-who have been associated with any institution having the necessary infrastructure facilities for their projects and who are engaged in the area of preservation of tribal art and crafts. In selecting individual projects for assistance, care is taken to ensure that different tribal groups in all parts of the country are covered to the extent possible.

(c) Details are given below in the Statement.

(d) Yes, Sir. The Centre for Social Development, Secunderabad has been sanctioned a grant of Rs. 41,600/- during 1989-90.

(e) Does not arise.