

other forest produce as raw material for their products; and

(b) if so, the steps being taken by the Government to save this forest wealth and ask these mills to find out some other alternative as raw material?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRIMATI MANEKA GANDHI): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) According to the new National Forest Policy 1988 following steps are to be taken:

- (i) No forest should be worked except on the basis of management plan approved by the Government.
- (ii) Forest based industry should raise the raw material needed for meeting its own requirements preferably by establishment of a direct relationship between the factory and the individuals who can grow the raw material by supporting the individuals with inputs including credit constant technical advice etc.
- (iii) The Government is encouraging use of non-forest based raw material like agricultural waste for production of paper and pulp by providing incentives like excise duty relief.

#### **Publication of Science book by NCERT**

6877. SHRI P.M. SAYEED: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the National Council of Educational Research and Training has

propelled a new scheme under which attractive science books for children have to be published;

(b) if so, the special features of the scheme; and

(c) the steps taken by Government to ensure that such books be within the reach of the poor children and are low priced?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI CHIMANBHAI MEHTA): (a) and (b). The National Council of Educational Research and Training (NCERT) has undertaken the task of bringing out popular science books under a new series of Supplementary Readers called the 'Popular Science Series'. These books aim at making Indian children aware of science in their every day life and at demystifying it. The first book entitled "What on Earth is Energy" was released recently.

(c) The books being brought out under the popular Science Series are priced by the NCERT according to its approved pricing formula on a "no profit no loss basis." Copyright permission, free of charge, will be given to State-level agencies for bringing out inexpensive editions of the books in the regional languages.

[*Translation*]

#### **Representation of SC/ST in IAS**

6878. SHRI THAN SINGH JATAV: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the number of scheduled caste/scheduled tribe officers out of the total number of Indian Administrative Service (IAS) Officers, State-wise;

(b) the number of posts reserved for SC/ST in IAS lying vacant; and