

grade and semester systems. According to the information furnished by all India Council of Technical Education, the Council has also laid down norms for conduct of examinations for engineering courses.

Examination reforms have been implemented by a number of universities, institutions deemed to be universities and agricultural/technological universities. According to the information furnished by University Grants Commission, 93 universities have introduced continuous internal evaluation, 31 universities have developed question banks, 57 universities have introduced grading system and 83 universities have introduced semester system.

Cleansing of Rupnarayan River

7674. SHRI SATYAGOPAL MISHRA: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state the steps being taken to make Rupnarayan river, a tributary of river Ganga, Pollution-free?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI NILAMANI ROUSTRAY): Pollution abatement measures for Rupnarayan River have not been included in the Ganga Action Plan.

'Forests of Gujarat'

7675. SHRI GOVINDBHAI K. SHEKHDA: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) the percentage of total forest area in Gujarat State;

(b) whether the forest area in the State has drastically decreased in the last three years;

(c) if so, reasons therefor; and

(d) the measures proposed to be taken

up in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI NILAMANI ROUSTRAY): (a) The recorded forest area in Gujarat is 18,777 Sq. Kms. which is 9.6% of the total geographical area of the State.

(b) to (d). The real forest cover in Gujarat has decreased by 70 Sq. Kms. between 1981-83 and 1985-87 which is not a drastic decrease.

Measures taken/proposed to be taken to conserve/protect forests are given below:—

1. The National Forest Policy, 1988, lays more emphasis on conservation of forests. There are specific provisions for protection of forests from grazing, fires and encroachment.
2. Forest (Conservation) Act was enacted in 1980 to check diversion of forest land for non-forest purposes. The act has been made more stringent by an amendment of 1988.
3. A Centrally Sponsored Scheme is under implementation to help the State to develop infrastructure for protection of forests.
4. Alternative sources of energy are encouraged to replace fuelwood in domestic and commercial sectors.
5. Wood is substituted by alternative materials in packaging, railway sleepers, building construction, furniture etc.
6. Import policy for timber has been liberalised.

7. Guidelines have been issued to State/UT Governments from time to time for protection of forests. Some of these guidelines are as follows:—

- (i) To avoid felling of natural forests and where such fellings are inevitable for restoration of crop or other silvicultural considerations, it should be restricted to area not exceeding 10 hectares in the hills.
- (ii) To consider banning of fellings in the hills above 1,000 metres, at least for some years.
- (iii) To identify critical areas in the hills and mountains which require protection from felling of forests and need immediate vigorous afforestation.
- (iv) To set apart 4% of the geographical area as protection area like wildlife sanctuaries, national parks, biosphere reserves etc.
- (v) To take measures for protection of forests from fires.

(e) National Wasteland Board has been set up as a nodal agency for implementation of Wasteland development programme for reforestation of degraded land and restoration of ecological balance.

Translation of Foreign Books in the Indian Languages

7676. SHRI A.K. ROY: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any organisation to translate the scientific and technological text books from foreign languages to Indian languages;

(b) if so, the details thereof with performance;

(c) whether any of these translated books are used in any of the Universities of the country as text books; if so, details thereof; and

(d) the steps being taken to popularise such text books?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI CHIMANBHAI MEHTA): (a) and (b). There is no organisation under the Central Government to exclusively translate the scientific and technological text from foreign languages to India languages.

(c) and (d). Do not arise.

[*Translation*]

Uniform Code for Universities of Bihar

7677. SHRI BHOGENDRA JHA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to refer to the reply given on 16 April, 1990 to Unstarred Question No.4885 regarding uniform code for colleges and Universities and state:

(a) whether any code regarding time-bound academic sessions, examination, results and minimum daily teaching hours in Universities of Bihar has since been implemented;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the steps likely to be taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI CHIMANBHAI MEHTA): (a) to (c). The Universities Grants Commission has recently circulated guidelines of a model academic calendar to be