

**Rural Institute at Viswabharati University**

**687. Shri H. N. Mukerjee:** Will the Minister of Education be pleased to state:

(a) whether the rural institute at Viswabharati University continues to be closed;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) whether students' discontent over the working of the said Institute still lingers?

**The Minister of Education (Shri M. C. Chagla):** (a) The Institute of Rural Higher Education, Sriniketan, was closed and subsequently dissolved with effect from 31st August, 1963.

(b) The reason for the closure was the continued indisciplined conduct of some of the students of the Rural Institute.

(c) Government have no information.

**Natural Resources under Continental Shelf**

**688. Shri D. C. Sharma:** Will the Minister of Petroleum and Chemicals be pleased to refer to the reply given to Starred Question No. 533 on the 28th August, 1963 and state:

(a) the progress made in exploiting natural resources under the continental shelf; and

(b) the results achieved so far?

**The Minister of Petroleum and Chemicals (Shri Humayun Kabir):** (a) Seismic exploration work is in progress in the Gulf of Cambay on some sand banks which remain submerged except during the periods of low tides.

(b) A structural indication of some interest has been obtained off the Aliabet Island at the mouth of the Nerbada river. Further study is in progress.

**Tribals of Maharashtra State**

**689. Shrimati Renu Chakravarty:** Will the Minister of Home Affairs be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Scheduled Tribes living outside the scheduled area in Maharashtra State approached the Home Minister and presented their memorandum explaining the grievances of tribals in Maharashtra State;

(b) whether it is a fact that tribals living outside the scheduled area are treated as "Other Backward Classes"; and

(c) the action proposed to be taken on their memorandum?

**The Deputy Minister in the Ministry of Home Affairs (Shrimati Chandrasekhar):** (a) to (b). A memorandum was received on behalf of the tribals of Vidarbha who have not been declared as Scheduled Tribes. These tribals are being treated as "Other Backward Classes" by the State Government. No decision has yet been taken on the question of declaring them as Scheduled Tribes.

**Prohibition Propaganda Centres, Delhi**

**690. { Shri E. Madhusudan Rao:  
Shri D. J. Naik:**

Will the Minister of Home Affairs be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the prohibition propaganda centres in Delhi are likely to be closed down; and

(b) if so, the reasons therefor?

**The Minister of State in the Ministry of Home Affairs (Shri Hajarnavis):** (a) No, Sir,

(b) Does not arise.