

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION AND DEPARTMENT OF CULTURE) (KUMARI SELJA) : (a) While delivering an address at the Rajiv Gandhi Foundation on March 29, 1995 Ms. Hillary Rodham Clinton *inter alia* stated that India would be the first country to benefit from a new ten year USAID \$ 100 million Girls' and Women's Education Initiative. USAID would provide an initial grant to support US and Indian NGOs to expand girls' education in India.

(b) and (c). The Government has not received any specific communication from the US Administration in this regard.

### Computer Education in Kendriya Vidyalayas

5144. DR. P. VALLAL PERUMAN :  
SHRI RAM PRASAD SINGH :  
SHRIMATI GEETA MUKHERJEE :  
DR. SUDHIR RAY :

Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether Computer Education is being introduced in Kendriya Vidyalayas soon; and

(b) if so, the salient features thereof?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION AND DEPARTMENT OF CULTURE) (KUMARI SELJA) : (a) and (b). The Government has approved a revised strategy to implement Computer Literacy and Studies in Schools (CLASS) for 8th Plan for imparting instruction through the public or private sector agencies. The agencies will provide a full time instructor, maintenance of hardware, provision of selected software, consumables, textbooks to the students and imparting training to teachers in the schools. Kendriya Vidyalaya Sangathan has selected 105 Kendriya Vidyalayas for procuring PC-80 (386) DX. Preferences have been given to the Kendriya Vidyalayas having Secondary and Senior Secondary classes.

[Translation]

### Maintenance of Zoos

5145. SHRI PANKAJ CHOWDHARY :  
SHRI BRIJ BHUSHAN SHARAN SINGH :  
DR. RAMAKRISHNA KUSMARIA :

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are considering to hand over the maintenance of zoos to the private-sector;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor; and

(c) the time by which a final decision is likely to be taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI KAMAL NATH) : (a) to (c). The Central Zoo Authority in its meeting considered various options to improve the management of the National Zoological Park, Delhi. These options included granting financial and/or managerial autonomy to the National Zoological Park by establishing a Society or a Trust for this purpose. The Central Zoo Authority has set-up a sub-group to prepare a detailed paper on the options available. It is only after a thorough consideration of all aspects that Government will take a decision in this regard.

### Agricultural Implements

5146. SHRI SURENDRA PAL PATHAK : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are aware of the fact that agriculture implements are being manufactured and used unabatedly in some States without adopting appropriate safeguards and without having their insuring them as per rules; and

(b) if so, the steps being taken by the Government to safeguard the interests of Agricultural Labourers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI S. KRISHNA KUMAR) : (a) and (b). The Government of India have enacted the Dangerous Machines (Regulation) Act, 1983 in terms of which power threshers are classified as dangerous machines. Other machines can be classified as dangerous machines by Notification in the Official Gazette. The Act provides for implementation of Bureau of Indian Standards specifications for power threshers so that only safe power threshers are manufactured and sold. The State Governments are required to implement the Central Legislation.

[English]

### Death of Peacocks

5147. SHRI SHIV SHARAN VERMA : Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the attention of the Government has been drawn to the newsitem captioned "Mystery over peacock deaths" appeared in "The Hindustan Times" dated March 14, 1995;

(b) if so, whether the Government are aware about the mysterious deaths of peacocks in and surrounding area of 'Thakur ki Garhi' in Alwar Distt. of Rajasthan;