

Review Committees on Text Books

7637. SHRI SANDIPAN BHAGWAN THORAT: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have decided to set Review Committees/Boards to review the quality of text books;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government have issued any directions to the State Governments in that regard; and

(d) if so, the details of the guidelines issued regarding the composition, terms and functions of the committees?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION AND DEPARTMENT OF CULTURE) (KUMARI SELJA): (a) to (d) The national steering Committee set up by this Ministry to review school textbooks from the standpoint of national integration, in its meeting held on 30-31 January '93 has recommended, inter-alia, that state Boards should be set up for the preparation and authorisation of textbooks to be used in all schools. The recommendations of the Committee were discussed in the Conference of State Education Ministers and Educationists convened by the Ministry of Human Resource Development on 1.2.93 to discuss undesirable modifications of school textbooks. As per a decision taken in the Conference the recommendations of the Committee have been sent to the States/UTs urging them for their views for evolving a plan of Action to protect the secular and national characters of school textbooks and other educational material.

" Allotment of Forest land to private parties "

7638. SHRI SOBHANADREESWARA RAO VADDE: Will the Minister of ENVIRON-

MENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) the general policy and criterion for allotment of forest land to the private for its development;

(b) whether revenue is collected on such land by State Governments;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) the forest land given to the private parties for its development in Madhya Pradesh during 1992-93; and

(e) the revenue collected therefrom?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI KAMAL NATH): (a) Prior approval of the Central Government is required under section (2) of the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980, for diversion of forest land for non-forest purposes. Detailed consolidated guidelines have been issued by this Ministry for processing and examination of the proposals received under the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980. As per these guidelines State Governments are required to submit the proposals including those of private parties to the Central government for approval under the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980.

(b) and (c) While according approval to the proposals of the State Government condition of compensatory afforestation, if applicable is stipulated by the Central Government. AS per these conditions User agency is required to deposit the funds for compensatory afforestation in favour of the State Government.

(d) No proposal for diversion of forest land for its development purposes by private parties in Madhya Pradesh, has been approved by the Central Government under the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980.

(e) Does not arise.