

Mock Parliament Demonstrations in Schools

174. **SHRI R.N. RAKESH** : Will the Minister of **PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS** be pleased to state :

(a) to what extent Government have gained achievement in educating the young generation of the country about the functioning of Parliament through Mock Parliament demonstrations in schools ;

(b) whether the younger generation in rural areas is totally ignorant about the functioning of Parliament and there has been considerable decline among the urban students about the knowledge of Parliament functioning ; and

(c) steps Government propose to take to educate the rural masses specially and urban students generally about the Parliament functioning through holding demonstration of Mock Parliaments ?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS, SPORTS AND WORKS AND HOUSING (SHRI BUTA SINGH) :

(a) It is very difficult to state in absolute term the gains achieved through Youth Parliament. However, the Scheme started with a modest beginning in 16 schools of Delhi Administration in 1966—the first competition. Uptil now, 18 competitions have been arranged and 828 schools have participated, 43, 100 students have taken part in these competitions and above 4,000 students have been awarded prizes and certificates. From this year the Youth Parliament Scheme is being introduced as a compulsory measure in all the schools of Delhi Administration. Kendriya Vidyalayas located in Delhi joined the competition in 1978 and only 10 Vidyalayas took part in that year. In 1983, 25 Kendriya Vidyalayas located in Delhi and adjoining towns in Uttar Pradesh, Haryana and Rajasthan (e.g. Meerut, Ghaziabad, Muradnagar, Agra, Mathura, Faridabad, Gurgaon, Panipat, Khetrinagar and Alwar) joined the competition.

(b) There is no method to assess the ignorance or awareness of functioning of

Parliament among the young generation of rural or urban population. However, so far 62 schools located in rural areas of Delhi have taken part in these competitions.

(c) The Central Department of Parliamentary Affairs have stressed upon the State/Union Territory Governments from time to time to introduce the Scheme in their States/Union Territories. As a result of the sustained effort of this Department, the scheme has been introduced in 6 states (Uttar Pradesh, Punjab, Haryana, Kerala, Tamil Nadu and Tripura) and the Union Territories (Chandigarh, Arunachal Pradesh and Dadra and Nagar Haveli), 7 States (Orissa, Andhra Pradesh, Meghalaya, Maharashtra, Nagaland, Sikkim and Karnataka), Union Territories of Pondicherry and Goa, Daman and Diu propose to implement the Scheme from this year. Efforts are being made to persuade the States/Union Territories to implement the Scheme in their States/Union Territories and through Panchayats in rural areas.

Laws Regarding Production and Marketing of Soft Drinks

175. **SHRI RASHEED MASOOD** :
PROF. AJIT KUMAR MEHTA :

Will the Minister of **FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES** be pleased to state :

(a) the consumers' rights, if any, to know about the food value and the contents of the soft drinks offered to them by the soft drink manufacturers and what is the existing law that governs the production and marketing of soft drinks in the country ;

(b) what is the mechanism, if any, to ensure that the manufacturers of soft drinks adhere to the requirements under the law/ rules ; and

(c) the details of the instances, if any, where the manufacturers of soft drinks violated the stipulated requirements in the matter of production, marketing, advertisement of their produce etc. and what action has been taken by Government in the matter ?