

(c) and (d) Hon'ble Supreme Court has directed all North-Eastern states to notify industrial estates for locating the wood-based industries in consultation with Ministry of Environment and Forests. State Governments are in process of identification and notification of industrial estates.

[Translation]

LPT into HPT at Kolhapur, Maharashtra

5676. SHRI KALLAPPA AWADE:
SHRI SADASHIVRAO D. MANDLIK:

Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have received complaints about poor telecast from the areas where Low Power TV Transmitters have been installed;

(b) if so, the measures being taken by the Government in this regard;

(c) whether any proposal is under consideration of the Government for converting these Low Power Transmitter into High Power Transmitters in the country particularly in the Kolhapur district of Maharashtra;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING AND MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ): (a) Though the quality of telecast from all the transmitters is reported to be satisfactory, there are complaints regarding many Low Power Transmitters (LPTs) not providing full time transmission mainly due to staff shortage.

(b) Prasar Bharati has initiated action for suitably augmenting staff strength at LPTs facing staff shortage. These are also envisaged to give full time transmission by the first week of October, 1998.

(c) to (e) The scheme for upgradation of 42 LPTs into HPTs are presently under implementation. No LPT is being upgraded to HPT in the Kolhapur district of Maharashtra. However, a new HPT is proposed to be set up at Mahapatgarh in Kolhapur district subject to sanction of the scheme by the competent authority and availability of adequate resources, other Infrastructural facilities and *inter se* priorities.

UNCCD

5677. SHRI GAURISHANKER CHATURBHUIJ BISEN:
Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government have signed United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification in December, 1996;

(b) if so, whether there is any policy to ensure people's participation in UNCCD;

(c) if so, whether any National Action Plan has been prepared so as to ensure the women's participation in the programme; and

(d) if so, the success achieved so far and the steps being taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI BABU LAL MARANDI): (a) to (d) The Government of India signed the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD) in October, 1994 and ratified it in December, 1996. The strategy to combat Desertification outlined in the Convention is based on extensive people's participation. The Government of India has several programmes and schemes for plantation and soil conservation, including in the arid areas and deserts. An illustrative list of these schemes is attached as Statement. These schemes are implemented with participation of local communities, including women.

Statement

(a) Ministry of Environment and Forests

- (1) Integrated Afforestation and Eco-development Projects Scheme.
- (2) Area Oriented Fuelwood and Fodder Projects Scheme.
- (3) Non-Timber Forest produce including Medicinal Plants Scheme.
- (4) Grants-in-Aid to Voluntary Agencies.
- (5) Association of Scheduled Tribes and Rural Poor in the Regeneration of degraded forests.

(b) Ministry of Rural Areas and Employment

- (1) Desert Development Programme (DDP).
- (2) Drought Prone Areas Programme (DPAP).
- (3) Jawahar Rojgar Yojana.
- (4) Integrated Wastelands Development Projects Scheme.
- (5) Employment Assurance Scheme.

(c) Ministry of Agriculture

- (1) Soil Conservation in the Catchment of River Valley Projects.
- (2) Integrated Watershed Management in the catchments of Flood Prone Rivers of Indo-Gangetic basin.

Education to Poor Sections of Society

5678. SHRI MITRASEN YADAV: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to take any steps to make available employment oriented education particularly technical education to the children belonging to the poor sections of society;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT AND MINISTER OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI): (a) to (c) Technical Education is mostly job oriented. Under the scheme of Community Polytechnics, training is specially geared to the needs of the unemployed/Under employed youths, school/college drops-outs, the under-privileged and disadvantaged including women, minorities and the weaker sections of the society. At the degree and diploma level, admissions to Technical Education programmes are made generally through Entrance Examination. Several Central Government Institutions also provide merit-cum-means scholarships for the poorer sections of the society. Nationalised Bank also consider loan facilities for students in technical institutions.

[English]

Portrayal of Women on Doordarshan

5679. SHRI CHETAN CHAUHAN: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal to telecast more women oriented programmes;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether guidelines regarding positive portrayal of women have been finalised;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING AND MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ): (a) and (b) Doordarshan telecasts a large number of programmes on women oriented themes on the National Network and also from Regional Networks. If further proposals are received, they will be considered on merit.

(c) and (d) Doordarshan Code and the Code for Commercial Advertising for Doordarshan already contain guidelines on portrayal of women. These guidelines *inter alia* stipulate that women must not be portrayed in a manner that emphasises passive, submissive qualities and encourages them to play a subordinate, secondary role in the family and society. Rather Doordarshan shows women in a positive manner and programmes on empowering women are also telecast on Doordarshan to create healthy environment.

(e) Does not arise.

Exchange of Constituencies

5680. SHRI N.K. PREMCHANDRAN: Will the Minister of LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state: