

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

[Translation]

Pollution of Ganga

*718. SHRI R.L.P. VERMA: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of tons of coal powder being sprinkled by industrial units and engineers at Gangotri and Gomukh, the points from which Ganga originates;

(b) if so, the action taken against the units and engineers who indulge in pollution of Ganga;

(c) whether there is any law providing for punishment of persons found guilty of pollution in Ganga; and

(d) if not, the steps contemplated to bring forward a legislation for this purpose?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI NILAMANI RUTRAY): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Action can be taken against such persons under the Environment (Protection) Act 1986, the Water (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1974 and the Indian Penal Code, 1860.

(d) Does not arise.

[English]

Literacy Amongst Women In Backward States

*720. SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the percentage of literate women in educationally backward States;

(b) the extent of rise in the percentage

of literate women during the last decade; and

(c) the steps taken and contemplated to raise the percentage of women literacy?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI CHIMANBHAI MEHTA): (a) A Statement showing the literacy rate of women in the ten educationally backward states, according to 1981 census is given below.

(b) The literacy data is collected through decennial census. The rate of female literacy registered an increase from 18.69% in 1971 to 24.82% in 1981. As the last census was held in 1981, the extent of rise in the percentage of literacy among women after 1981 census will be known on the basis of census report of 1991.

(c) Keeping in view the policy for removal of disparity in access to educational opportunity suffered by women, several strategies have been initiated recently to promote women's education throughout the country with emphasis on women in rural and tribal areas. Some of these are as under:—

(i) *Mahila Samakhya*: The basic thrust of this programme is to create a mechanism whereby women are given an opportunity to plan and monitor their own education and reach out to a new body of knowledge. It aims at involving women in the process of educational planning at the village level and providing education inputs like non-formal education centres, training of village school teachers and production of educational material. This project has been launched in 10 districts, 3 each of Gujarat and Karnataka and 4 of Uttar Pradesh.

(ii) *School Education*: In the school education, measures taken for promoting education of the girls