

grade and semester systems. According to the information furnished by all India Council of Technical Education, the Council has also laid down norms for conduct of examinations for engineering courses.

Examination reforms have been implemented by a number of universities, institutions deemed to be universities and agricultural/technological universities. According to the information furnished by University Grants Commission, 93 universities have introduced continuous internal evaluation, 31 universities have developed question banks, 57 universities have introduced grading system and 83 universities have introduced semester system.

#### **Cleansing of Rupnarayan River**

7674. SHRI SATYAGOPAL MISHRA: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state the steps being taken to make Rupnarayan river, a tributary of river Ganga, Pollution-free?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI NILAMANI ROUSTRAY): Pollution abatement measures for Rupnarayan River have not been included in the Ganga Action Plan.

#### **'Forests of Gujarat'**

7675. SHRI GOVINDBHAI K. SHEKHDA: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) the percentage of total forest area in Gujarat State;

(b) whether the forest area in the State has drastically decreased in the last three years;

(c) if so, reasons therefor; and

(d) the measures proposed to be taken

up in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI NILAMANI ROUSTRAY): (a) The recorded forest area in Gujarat is 18,777 Sq. Kms. which is 9.6% of the total geographical area of the State.

(b) to (d). The real forest cover in Gujarat has decreased by 70 Sq. Kms. between 1981-83 and 1985-87 which is not a drastic decrease.

Measures taken/proposed to be taken to conserve/protect forests are given below:—

1. The National Forest Policy, 1988, lays more emphasis on conservation of forests. There are specific provisions for protection of forests from grazing, fires and encroachment.
2. Forest (Conservation) Act was enacted in 1980 to check diversion of forest land for non-forest purposes. The act has been made more stringent by an amendment of 1988.
3. A Centrally Sponsored Scheme is under implementation to help the State to develop infrastructure for protection of forests.
4. Alternative sources of energy are encouraged to replace fuelwood in domestic and commercial sectors.
5. Wood is substituted by alternative materials in packaging, railway sleepers, building construction, furniture etc.
6. Import policy for timber has been liberalised.