

**Gap between rich and poor**

3986. SHRIMATI USHA SINHA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the gap between rich and poor is widening; and

(b) if so, the steps proposed to narrow down the gap?

THE PRIME MINISTER (SHRI VISHWANATH PRATAP SINGH): (a) The gap between rich and poor can be assessed with reference to consumption expenditure, data on which are available from National Sample Surveys. The ratio of per capita consumption expenditure (at current prices) of non-poor to poor does not indicate any increase for 1987-88 over 1977-78.

(b) Does not arise.

[*Translation*]

**Opening of University in Madhya Pradesh**

3987. SHRI NAND KUMAR SAI: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether a proposal for opening a Tribal University in Jaspur Town in Raigarh district in Madhya Pradesh is pending for long time with Government for approval;

(b) if so, the action taken so far; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (PROF. M.G.K. MENON): (a) to (c). No such proposal is pending with the Central Government or the University Grants

Commission.

[*English*]

**Human Exploration of Mars**

3988. SHRI PRATAPRAO B. BHOSALE: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to take up the programme of human exploration in Mars;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government propose to take assistance from some foreign country;

(d) if so, details thereof and amount to be spent on this venture;

(e) whether the Indian Scientists are completely trained for this new ventures; and

(f) if not, the details of steps proposed to be taken?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (PROF. M.G.K. MENON): (a) No, Sir.

(b) to (f). Do not arise.

[*Translation*]

**Excavations at Sarnath**

3989. SHRI SHIV SHARAN VARMA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether rare idols of Buddha and