

people's participation in all aspects of the project. The total duration of the project is six years starting 1995-96.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) It is proposed to afforest 2,30,795 hectares inclusive of 1,57,295 hectares of forest area and 73,500 hectares of non-forest area during the project period. The project would be completed by 2000-2001.

Auction of Letters of Gandhiji

920. SHRI GURUDAS DAS GUPTA: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there has been an attempt to auction some letters of Gandhiji; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI S.R. BOMMAI): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) It came to the notice of the Government that Shri V. Kalyanam, a stenographer of Mahatma Gandhi during the period 1944-48, was trying to put to auction certain papers/ letters written by Mahatma Gandhi, through Phillips International Auctioneers & Vendors, London. Contact was accordingly made with Shri Kalyanam, Indian High Commission in London and Navajivan Trust, Ahmedabad to devise and undertake steps to prevent the auction.

A suit was filed by the Navajivan Trust in the High Court of Judicature at Madras seeking injunction against the auction of Mahatma Gandhi papers. The High Court issued interim injunction restraining the respondents/ defendants or any one claiming or acting under them from in any manner dealing with or parting with the possession of Gandhiji's papers pending the disposal of the suit. The Court likewise gave an interim injunction against infringement of the Copyrights of Navajivan Trust.

Taking note of the claim of Navajivan Trust on the papers, the Auctioneers decided to call off the auction which was due to be held on 14th November, 1996.

High rate of Women Illiteracy

921. PROF. NAUNIHAL SINGH: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the rates of women illiteracy, State-wise at the end of each of the last three census;

(b) the reasons for high rate of illiteracy among women, especially in States like Bihar, Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh, Orissa and Uttar Pradesh;

(c) whether it is a fact that high rate of female illiteracy leads to higher birth rate; and

(d) if so, the steps taken by Government to improve the female literacy?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI MUHI RAM SAIKIA): (a) A statement is enclosed. (See below)

(b) Historically, a variety of factors have been found to be responsible for poor female literacy rate. Low enrolment of girls in schools, low retention rate and high drop out rate along with several other socio-economic reasons are responsible for poor female literacy rate in these areas.

(c) It has generally been noticed that the States with High rate of female illiteracy have also high birth rate.

(d) The Scheme of Universalisation of Elementary Education, Non-Formal Education for School Drop-outs, Total Literacy Campaigns of the National Literacy Mission form the three pronged strategy for increasing female literacy in the country.

Statement Rate of Women Illiteracy

India/State or Union Territory	Illiteracy Rate		
	1971	1981	1991
States			
1. Andhra Pradesh	84.25	79.61	67.28
2. Arunachal Pradesh	96.29	88.68	70.31
3. Assam	80.73	*	56.97
4. Bihar	91.28	86.38	77.11