

(a) whether Government are aware of the Editorial of the Hindustan Times, New Delhi of 2nd July, 1993 titled "From Draupadi to Usha Dhimani";

(b) if so, what is the reaction of Government thereto; and

(c) what action Government propose to take through any legislation or otherwise to prevent stripping of women at public places in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DEPARTMENT OF WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT) (SHRIMATI DASAVARAJESWARI): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Government condemns and abhors such alleged acts.

(c) Provisions already exist in the I. P. C. to deal with such cases. The responsibility for registration, investigation and action under these laws in that of the State Governments/ U.T. Administrations. The Central Government has however issue instructions to State Governments/ U.T. Administrations to strictly implement these Acts. The National Commission for Women has also taken up this matter under Section 10(1) (f) of the National Commission for Women Act (1990).

Popularisation of Hindi

2354. SHRI RAMDAS AGARWAL: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been draw to a news item published in the Hindi edition of Nav Bharat Times, New Delhi dated 16th July, 1993 captioned "Out of 88 crores population only 2 lakh speak English" in India;

(b) if so, the details thereof, State and Union Territory-wise in the country at present available with Government; and

(c) what steps Government have taken so far to popularise Hindi and what are their future plans in this direction and if not, the reasons therefor indicating budgetary provisions for 1993-94?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DEPTT. OF EDUCATION AND DEPTT. OF CULTURE) (KUMARI SELJA):

(a) and (b) Attention of the Government has been drawn to the news item through this Question. Statistics available with Registrar

General of Census reveal that in the 1981 Census 2,02,440 persons had returned English as their mother tongue.

(c) A statement is attached.

Statement

Steps for popularisation of Hindi

Government is implementing the following 7 schemes including schemes to maintain autonomous bodies/subordinate offices under the Ministry of Human Resource Development for the purpose of Promotion of Hindi. These Schemes are likely to continue during the 8th Five Year Plan:

1. Financial assistance to voluntary organisations including publications for promotion of Hindi.—A budget provision of Rs. 292.50 lakhs has been made for the year 1993-94.
2. Appointment and training of Hindi teachers in non-Hindi speaking States/ UTs.—A budget provision of Rs. 250.00 lakhs has been made for the year 1993-94.
3. Propagation of Hindi abroad.—A budget provision of Rs. 36.00 lakhs has been made for the year 1993-94.
4. Scheme of production of University level text books in Hindi and in regional languages.—A budget provision of Rs. 14.00 lakhs has been made for the year 1993-94.
5. Central Hindi Directorate is engaged in the development of Hindi as link language through correspondence courses, production of bilingual and tri-lingual dictionaries etc.—A budget provision of Rs. 203.50 lakhs has been made for the year 1993-94.
6. Commission for Scientific & Technical Terminology is engaged in the evolution of scientific and technical terminology in Hindi and in Regional language.—A budget provision of Rs. 77.00 lakhs has been made for the year 1993-94.
7. Kendriya Hindi Sansthan is engaged in imparting teachers' training for in-service teachers in non-Hindi speaking States/UTs.—A budget provision of Rs. 235.00 lakhs has been made for the year 1993-94.

Female Literacy Rate in States

2355. SHRI S. S. AHLUWALIA: Will the

Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government are aware that the index of social development of females is at the lowest in the States of Bihar, Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan and Uttar Pradesh due to lowest rate of female literacy rate in these States;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof; and

(c) what remedial action Government propose to take to raise the literacy and social development in these most populated States?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DEPTT. OF EDUCATION AND DEPTT. OF CULTURE) (KUMARI SEIJA) : (a) and (b) The National Institute of Education Planning and Administration in its report on Women and Development have constructed a composite index of levels of social well-being of women in India based on 1981 census data. The index of social well-being has been based on 24 variables out of which only 7 relate to female literacy and educational level of females. Therefore, as per the report female literacy is only one of the components responsible for the social well-being of women. According to this report the four states—Bihar, Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan and Uttar Pradesh have the maximum number of backward districts with respect to social well-being of women. The number of such backward districts in each of the states is as under :

Name of State	No. of backward districts
1. Bihar	28
2. Madhya Pradesh	26
3. Rajasthan	24
4. Uttar Pradesh	29

(c) As regards the steps taken to raise the literacy level, universalisation of elementary education, non-formal education for school drop-outs and the National Literacy Mission which aims at imparting functional literacy to adult illiterates in the 15-35 age group form a part of a larger strategy for eradication of illiteracy in the country. Some of the programmes taken up for the welfare and development of women are :

1. Hostels for working women

2. Setting up of Employment-cum-Training-cum-Income Generating units for women (NORAD)
3. Support to Employment Programmes (STEP)
4. Short Stay Homes
5. Women Development Corporation
6. Education work for Prevention of Atrocities against women
7. Setting up Women's Training Centres for women in distress
8. Programme, Monitoring and Evaluation Unit (WD)
9. Condensed Courses of Education and Training for Adult women (implemented by Central Social Welfare Board)
10. Socio-Economic Programme (implemented by Central Social Welfare Board)
11. Awareness Generation Projects (implemented by Central Social Welfare Board)
12. Grants-in-aid to Voluntary Organisations through Central Social Welfare Board
13. Gender Sensitisation Programmes and Awareness Generation
14. Use of Information and Mass Media for bringing about attitudinal changes
15. Formulation of the National Plan of Action for the SAARC Decade of the Girl Child
16. Assistance to Voluntary Organisations for replication of successful WDP Projects
17. Research Studies in the field of women & child development
18. National Commission for women has been set up
19. National Credit Fund for women has also been set up
20. A Legal Literacy Mannual in English and Hindi has been prepared
21. Training Package for women's Development is being implemented.

Literacy Rate In Bihar

2356. SHRI S. S. AHLUWALIA : Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that there has been a