Note: In respect of column (4), it is clarified that while the National Literacy Mission's preferred target age-group is 15—35, it happens that quite a few district TLOs have been approved for extended age-groups. The data-base projection (as per the 1991 census) are available only for the illiterate population of 7 years of age and above. This has accordingly been adopted as the base for working out the percentage of target coverage.

## Sale of unused BA degrees in Delhi University

645. SHRI VIRENDRA KATARIA: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that unused original BA Degree for examination held in 1991 were being sold at the Delhi University for Rs. 1,000/-as alleged by office bearers of Delhi University Student Union as re-

ported in the Indian Express, alleging involvement of administration of Delhi University; and

(b) if so, what action has been taken by the University and Government in this regard?

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

to the information furnished by the University of Delhi, there is no evidence to establish the alleged sale of unused original B.A. degrees. However, on the basis of a report appearing in the newspaper, an F.I.R. has been lodged by the Controller of Examinations with the local police.

Written Answers

(b) Any further action in the matter would be possible after the investigation report is received.

## Foreign firms offer to run Kolar Gold Mines

- 646. SHRI G.Y. KRISHNAN: Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state:
- (a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the newsitem appearing in the Business Age (Business Section of Asian Age) New Delhi dated the 22nd April, 1994 under the caption "Foreign firms offer to run Kolar Gold Mines";
- (b) if so, the details thereof and the reaction thereto; and
- (c) what steps Government propose to take to revive the Kolar Gold Mines?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF MINES (SHRI BALRAM SINGH YADAV):

- (a) Yes, Sir.
- (b) Some foreign companies had shown interest in collaborating with Bharat Gold Mines Ltd. (BGML), Govt. of Indian Undertaking engaged in gold mining. The company has recently invited offers for collaboration in the field of exploration and exploitation of gold and treatment of mill tailings by 1-8-1994.
- (c) Possibility of revival of Bharat Gold Mines Ltd. is being examined by the Board for Industrial & Financial Reconstruction (BIFR) in consultation with all concerned parties.

Investment by a Australian Company in India for Mining

- 647. SHRIV. NARAYANASA-MY: Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state:
- (a) whether a top Australian company is keen to make significant investments in India especially in mining;
- (b) if so, the total amount of investments expected from this Australian company; and
- (c) the terms and conditions under which such investments are likely to be made by this Austrialian company?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF MINES (SHRI BALRAM SINGH YADAV): (a) to (c) The National Mineral Policy placed before this House on 5-3-1993 liberalising further the conditions pertaining to foreign investment in mining sector has generated interest amongst foreign mining companies, including Australia. Foreign investment will materialise only after the companies have obtained Prospecting Licence/ Mining Lease from the concerned State Government either themselves or through joint venture arrangements with existing companies, the process of which will take time.

## Study on Colliery deaths

- 648. SHRI JANARDAN YADAV: Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state:
- (a) whether any study has been made by Government to ascertain the rate of annual colliery deaths and deaths due to coal dust related diseases among the miners in the country:
  - (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) what are the reasons for the failure of the safety measures taken so far to prevent colliery deaths and deaths due to coal dust related diseases?