

(b) what is the number of such projects likely to be launched during the next financial year?

THE MINISTER OF EDUCATION, SOCIAL WELFARE AND CULTURE (DR. PRATAP CHANDRA CHUNDER): (a) The Government of India has approved 206 projects during the current year 1978-79 to the various State Governments. These include 144 projects under the scheme of Farmers Functional Literacy Programme and 60 projects under the scheme of Non-formal Education programme for the persons in the age group 15—35.

(b) From 1979-80 it has been decided to merge the above mentioned two schemes into one integrated scheme under the nomenclature of Rural Functional Literacy Projects. It is also proposed to increase the number of such projects from 206 during the current year to 242 during 1979-80.

#### **Opening of a rural functional literacy project**

85. SHRI SAWAISINGH SISODIA:  
SHRI DEVENDRA NATH  
DWIVEDI:  
SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE:  
SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI:  
SHRI VITHAL GADGIL:

Will the Minister of EDUCATION, SOCIAL WELFARE AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the National Board of Adult Education has prepared a time-bound programme to open a rural functional literacy project in every district in the country; and

(b) if so, what are the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF EDUCATION, SOCIAL WELFARE AND CULTURE (DR. PRATAP CHANDRA CHUNDER): (a) The Government has decided to sanction at least one Rural Functional Literacy Project in

every district in the country during the mid-term plan period 1978—83 in a phased manner.

(b) The existing scheme of Farmers Functional Literacy (which extends to 144 districts) and Non-Formal Education for persons in the age group 15—35 (which extends to 60 districts) will be merged into one integrated scheme of Rural Functional Literacy Project; from 1979-80; and the project would be sanctioned in every district with central funds by the close of the plan period in 1982-83. While the funding will be central, implementation will be done by the State Governments/U.T. administrations. The size of each project would be upto 300 adult education centres, with an enrolment of about 30 adults in each centre.

#### **New Educational Policy**

86. SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR SAHU:  
SHRIMATI LEELA DAMODARA  
MENON: SHRI BAPURAOJI  
MAROTRAOJI DESHMUKH:

Will the Minister of EDUCATION, SOCIAL WELFARE AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal under Government's consideration to introduce a new national policy on education; and

(b) if so, what are salient features thereof?

THE MINISTER OF EDUCATION, SOCIAL WELFARE AND CULTURE (DR. PRATAP CHANDRA CHUNDER): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The present Government is already implementing priority programmes of reform which include universalisation of elementary education and adult education. It is also taking action to recast the content of education at all stages. These programmes and actions *inter alia*, will feature in the new national policy of Education.