

## VIDEO DOCUMENTARY REFLECTION/DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

### “HINDUISM, 330 MILLION GODS” (BBC)

**With Mr. Sharma: according to M.K. Sharma, tourist guide and *pandit*:**

- (1) Who is Kali?
- (2) What is “God”?
- (3) What are statues and images of gods?
- (4) What is Hinduism?
- (5) Who is a Hindu?

**At the Ganges:**

- (6) What is the significance of the River Ganges (Ganga) for Hindus?
- (7) Why do Hindus go on pilgrimage or have festivals at such places at the Ganges?

**In an Indian village: according to Shivesh Thakur, Professor of Philosophy in Surrey, England:**

- (8) What is life like his home village of Vishbhagwanpur from the vantage point of his Western education?
- (9) How is the goddess Sarasvati related to schooling in Vishbhagwanpur?
- (10) Who are the best known of the 330 million gods?

**With *Mahatmya*, the *sanyassi* (renunciant):**

- (11) What did the *Mahatmya* do before his renunciation?
- (12) How does he respond to that question?
- (13) Why should a religious aspirant leave his home?
- (14) What relation is the *Mahatmya* to Professor Shivesh Thakur?

**With brahmin priests:**

- (15) What and for what reasons are the brahmin priests chanting?
- (16) Can people understand the chants of the priests? Does it make any difference?
- (17) What are the responsibilities of high caste religious experts?
- (18) Are there skeptics in the village?

**At the Shiva temple:**

- (19) What does Shiva represent?
- (20) How is Shiva worshipped?

**With householders of the village:**

- (21) What is caste?
- (22) What are the four stages of life for Brahmin (high caste) Hindus?
- (23) What is the significance of the sacred thread for young brahmin boys?
- (24) How should one spend old age in an ideal Hindu sense?

**General Questions**

- (25) How does Ronald Eyre compare Hindu gods with Catholic saints?
- (26) Broadly speaking, how would you compare the *sanyassi*'s life with that of householders?