

**Children's Museums**

**596. Shri D. C. Sharma:** Will the Minister of Education be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal to set up Children's Museum to develop creative talent in the children;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the steps proposed to be taken in this direction?

**The Minister of Education (Dr. K. L. Shrimali):** (a) The Government is setting up a Children's Museum at Delhi.

(b) A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

**STATEMENT**

The Children's Museum in Delhi is being set up as a supplementary institution to the Bal Bhavan in the 10.8 acre plot at Kotla Road, New Delhi. It will be an educational service and will provide children with opportunities for organised art activities. It will arrange exhibitions for children, on children and of children's work. It will serve as a resource centre for teachers for information, materials and supplies. It will also undertake training of Museum personnel.

Work on the construction of the Museum building has not yet started, and the office of the Museum is for the time being housed in the Bal Bhavan building. When completed, the Museum building will comprise an Administrative Block, a Special Exhibition Gallery and a Multipurpose Hall. The cost on construction is expected to be within Rs. 10 lakhs. The Museum is expected to start its regular service from 1st October, 1962.

The Museum is administered by an autonomous Board which also jointly administers the Bal Bhavan. The Government of India meets the expenditure on a cent per cent basis.

(c) Does not arise.

**Means Test**

**\*597. Shri Siddiah:** Will the Minister of Home Affairs be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Study Group appointed to investigate into the conditions of the weaker sections in the village community has recommended that in the case of Scheduled Castes and Tribes the Means test should be abolished for the purpose of giving educational facilities; and

(b) whether Government accept that recommendations and will abolish the Means test for the purpose of awarding post-matric scholarship to those castes and tribes for the year 1962-63 and subsequent years?

**The Minister of State in the Ministry of Home Affairs (Shri Datar):** (a) Study Group have recommended that in respect of all development schemes, a means-test should be applied for determining the weaker sections of village community: they have however, expressed the view that, as whole groups, Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes can be taken to be part of the weaker sections, and hence, no means-test is necessary in their case.

(b) The recommendations are being examined by Government and decisions will be taken in due course. There is no means-test for students belonging to Scheduled Tribes even at present, in the scheme of post-matric scholarships.

**'Wear White at Night' Campaign**

26.

**\*598. Shri Hem Barua:** Will the Minister of Home Affairs be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a "wear white at night" campaign has been started at Delhi; and

(b) if so, what are the specific purposes of such a campaign, and whether this has been given sufficient publicity?

**The Minister of State in the Ministry of Home Affairs (Shri Datar):**