

(a) whether there is any proposal under the consideration of Government to create an All-India Agricultural Service, for better and more co-ordinated Administration in the field of agriculture; and

(b) whether the Ministry of Food and Agriculture or any other Government agency have approached his Ministry to create such a service?

The Minister of State in the Ministry of Home Affairs (Shri B. N. Datar): (a) and (b). Yes.

Amendment of Hindu Succession Act

621. { Shri Sadhu Ram:
Shri Hem Raj:
Shri D. C. Sharma:

Will the Minister of Law be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Punjab Government have moved the Central Government for amendment of Hindu Succession Act; and

(b) if so, what measures are being taken to amend the law and how much time it is likely to take?

The Deputy Minister in the Ministry of Law (Shri Bibudhendra Misra): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

Chhaw Dance

622. **Dr. U. Misra:** Will the Minister of Scientific Research and Cultural Affairs be pleased to state what provision has been made to preserve and promote 'Chhaw dance' of Saraikala, a classical dance of India?

The Minister of Scientific Research and Cultural Affairs (Shri Humayun Kabir): The Sangeet Natak Akademi, New Delhi has recognised 'Chhaw' as a traditional dance form. Eminent exponents of this dance are eligible for Akademi Awards. The Akademi also gives financial assistance for specific projects to recognised institutions engaged in the promotion and

preservation of 'Chhaw'. No separate funds are allocated for the purpose but requests received are considered by the Akademi under its Rules.

Sujanpur Tira Fort

623. **Shri Hem Raj:** Will the Minister of Scientific Research and Cultural Affairs be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Sujanpur Tira Fort in Kangra District (Punjab) has rare type of paintings of the Kangra School of Painting on its walls and roofs;

(b) if so, whether it is a fact that they are being spoiled and damaged; and

(c) whether Government propose to declare it a protected monument and take it under their protection?

The Deputy Minister in the Ministry of Scientific Research and Cultural Affairs (Dr. M. M. Das): (a) Some traces of paintings on the walls of Gauri Shankar temple and on a part of Zanana Palace at Tira Sujanpur located within the complex of a ruined fort have been found.

(b) Extensive damage was done by the earthquake of 1905, but not by human hands.

(c) The Katoch palace within the fort complex is protected. The question of protecting the paintings is under examination.

Indian Council for Cultural Relations

624. **Shri P. K. Deo:** Will the Minister of Scientific Research and Cultural Affairs be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there have been frequent complaints that in regard to appointment, promotions and confirmation of staff in the Indian Council of Cultural Relations weightage is given to particular section;

(b) if so, the reason thereof; and