

[English]

Folk Culture of North Bengal

5755. SHRI PRIYA RAJAN DAS MUNSI : Will the Minister of CULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government provide assistance to Government of West Bengal to promote, preserve the cultural heritage and folk culture of North Bengal for "Gambhira" Gan, "Chhau" of Purulia and "Baul" songs of Birbhum;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, whether Government propose to consider a proposal for extensive research work on those rich tradition of culture through awards of scholarships ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL AND TRAINING, ADMINISTRATIVE REFORMS AND PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSION AND IN THE DEPARTMENT OF CULTURE (SHRI K P. SINGH DEO) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) The Department of Culture operates some schemes for giving scholarship for training and research in various art forms.

Anti-India Groups in U.K.

5756. SHRIMATI GEETA MUKHERJEE :

SHRI SHANTARAM POTDUKHE :

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the newsreports that various anti-India groups in U.K. held a convention in London in April, 1985; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and Government's reaction thereto ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI KHURSHEED ALAM KHAN) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) An International Sikh Convention was held in London on 6-7 April 1985 under

the aegis of the so-called "Republic of Khalistan" led by Dr. Jagjit Singh Chauhan. It is understood that a total of 150 delegates, including 35 from outside U.K., participated in the Convention. It was addressed by Dr. Jagjit Singh Chauhan, Shri A H. Phizo, self-styled "President of the Republic of Nagaland", Dr. Amanyar of the Afghan Mujahidin. Mr Gilani of Jammu and Kashmir Liberation Front and Mr. Sayeed of the Indian Muslim Federation.

The Convention was to conclude with a Rally in London, but permission was denied by the British Government.

Murder of Foreign Diplomats

5757. SHRI MOHD. MAHFOOZ ALI KHAN : Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) the number of cases of murders/ attempted murders of foreign diplomats in the country during the last three years and the countries which they represented;

(b) in how many cases to assailants/ attackers were identified and arrested stating their nationality;

(c) whether in view of these incidents and the recent assassination of Soviet diplomat, Government have made any efforts to know the activities of the foreign national fleeing from conflicts in Afghanistan and other Middle East countries taking refuge in the country;

(d) if so, the details thereof and the steps taken by Government in the matter; and

(e) if answer be in the negative, whether Government propose to make such an assessment ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI RAM DULAI SINHA) : (a) During the period January 1982 to March 1985, 3 cases of murder and 2 cases of attempted murder of foreign diplomats have come to the notice of the Government. These diplomats belonged to Kuwait, U.A.E., Jordan, U.K. & U.S.S.R.

(a) The assailants have not been identified and arrested.