

[*Translation*]

**Scheme for development of forest Villagers**

**3458. SHRI ARVIND NETAM :** Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether 'Forest Villagers' have remained beyond the pale of plan development;

(b) whether in the Chief Minister Conference held in July, 1984, it was decided to pay special attention towards development of forest villagers; and

(c) whether it is proposed to start a Central sector scheme for development of these vulnerable tribal groups ?

**THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI VIR SEN) :** (a) No, Sir. Planned development includes development of Forest Villagers also.

(b) The meeting considered ways and means of ensuring perceptible progress in tribal development. This includes tribal forest villagers.

(c) Government have in view a number of schemes for development of tribals including tribal forest villagers.

**Promotion of SC/STs Senior Research Officers on Adhoc Basis**

**3459. SHRIMATI SUNDERWATI NAWAL PRABHAKAR :** Will the Minister of PLANNING be pleased to state :

(a) the number of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes officers in the Planning Commission promoted on adhoc basis during the last three years as Senior Research Officers; and

(b) if no such promotion was made, the reasons therefor ?

**THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING (SHRI K. R. NARAYANAN) :** (a) Nil

(b) No Officer belonging to the Scheduled Caste/Scheduled Tribes was available having requisite qualifications and experience required for the two posts of Senior Research Officers to which promotions were made on an adhoc basis in the last three years.

[*English*]

**Highest percentage of funds allotted to Punjab**

**3460. SHRI RAM BHAGAT PASWAN :** Will the Minister of PLANNING be pleased to state :

(a) whether Punjab is allotted the highest percentage of funds in every respect; and

(b) if so, the reasons thereof ?

**THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING (SHRI K. R. NARAYANAN) :** (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

**Holding of festival of Indian Culture in USA**

**3461. SHRI T. BALA GOUD :** Will the Minister of CULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) the plans drawn up for holding a festival of Indian culture during the later part of this year in U.S.A.;

(b) the funds set apart for the purpose; and

(c) steps being taken to select distinguished artists and reputed cultural groups for sending them to the festival in USA ?

**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) The Festival of India in the United States is