

[*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

scheduled to open in June, 1985 in Washington D. C. and extend over a period of one and a half years. It will comprise a number of exhibitions sponsored by some of the most prestigious institutions in United States, performing arts, theatre groups, films, poetry reading, symposia and seminars etc.

(b) Government of India is likely to spend approximately Rs. 515 lakhs on the Festival of India in USA.

(c) Distinguished artistes and groups from India are being selected on merits by the Performing Arts Committee of the Festival of India which includes representatives of the Sangeet Natak Akademi and the Indian Council for Cultural Relations.

#### Cultural ties between India and Egypt

3462. SHRI K. PRADHANI: Will the Minister of CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether steps have been taken by Government to establish cultural ties between India and Egypt;

(b) if so, the various cultural programmes proposed to be organised and exchanged during the current Financial year; and

(c) the steps taken to improve cultural ties with other countries, if any?

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) and (b) India has close cultural relations with Egypt. A cultural Agreement between the two countries was signed in September, 1958. To implement the provisions of this Agreement Cultural Exchange Programmes specifying concrete activities and exchanges between the two countries have been formulated from time to time. These Programmes are

implemented by the concerned Government departments/organisations. The latest Programme covers the years 1984-1987 & envisages exchange of academics between the educational institutions of the two countries, exchange of books, references and publications in the field of education, art and culture, award of scholarships; exchange of performing troupes and art exhibitions, participation in each other's book fairs and international film festivals, exchange of radio and TV programmes including short films and documentaries, exchanges in the field of man-power development, social welfare, health and agriculture etc.

(c) As a part of improvement of cultural relations with various countries, cultural agreements exist with 71 countries.

12.00 hrs.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Prof. K. K. Tewary. (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: I have allowed Prof. Tewary. I will allow one by one.

PROF. K. K. TEWARY (Buxar): Sir, the Sub-Committee... (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: What is the matter? I will allow you also. Have I barred you? I have allowed Prof. Tewary and he is on his legs.

PROF. K. K. TEWARY: It is a very serious matter and I think, the entire House will agree and will, with one voice, condemn the American interference in our internal affairs. The Sub-Committee of the American senate has held a hearing in which the extremist leaders of Khalistan and even the State Department had been represented. It is an attempt to de-stabilise India; it is an attempt to endanger our unity and independence. Therefore, the entire House and the whole nation should, with one voice, condemn this interference by the Americans in the unity