

**Officers Sent for Training/Meeting/
Conference Abroad**

9570. SHRI GOPAL K. TANDEL: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of officers in Groups 'A' and 'B' and departmentwise of Union Government who were sent abroad for technical seminar/meetings/conferences/workshops and/or training purpose during the last three years, year-wise; and

(b) the total expenditure incurred by the Union Government for sending the officers abroad?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) and (b). The information sought is not centrally available. Further, no central allocation of funds is made by the union Government for sending officers abroad and expenditure in this regard is incurred by the concerned ministries/departments.

**Suitability of Sanskrit as a Computer
Language**

9571. DR. A.K. PATEL: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Sanskrit language can serve as the best computer language for artificial intelligence; and

(b) if so, the steps taken in this regard and the results achieved so far in this direction?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF OCEAN DEVELOPMENT, ATOMIC ENERGY, ELECTRONICS AND SPACE (SHRI K. R. NARAYANAN): (a) Sanskrit can serve as an appropriate language for artificial intelligence.

(b) The Department of Electronics has launched 'Knowledge Based Computer

System/Fifth Generation Computer Systems' (KBCS/FGCS) project during Seventh Plan period to carry out research and development in the frontier areas of computer engineering. Under this project, six nodal centres have been set up with Tata Institute of Fundamental Research, Bombay, National Centre for Software Technology (NCST), Bombay, Indian Statistical Institute, Calcutta, Indian Institute of Science, Bangalore, Indian Institute of Technology, Madras and Department of Electronics, New Delhi. The research in the field of Natural language for computers is being conducted at NCST, Bombay.

As an attempt to give thrust for research in this field, 'National Conference of Knowledge Representation and Inference in Sanskritam' was organised at Bangalore during December 20-22, 1986. This conference was attended by experts from India and abroad in the fields of Computer Science, Linguistics and Education. The expertise of Sanskrit scholars is being sought under the FGCS/KBCS programme through the nodal centres as detailed above. A project on the use of Sanskrit as a natural language to serve as an artificial intelligence also, is being formulated under the FGCS/KBCS programme. The research work is being coordinated by Department of Electronics.

**Amount Spent by ICCR on Performance
of Arts**

9572. SHRI RAJ KUMAR RAI: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of programmes of performing arts presented by the Indian Council for Cultural Relations in Delhi and other places in India during the last two years; and

(b) the amount spent on each performance?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI K. NATWAR SINGH): (a) and (b). Details of programmes of performing arts presented by the Indian Council for Cultural Relations