

CULTURE (SHRIMATI SUSHILA ROHATGI) : (a) to (d) The University Grants Commission had introduced a scheme of "Personal Merit Promotion" to be implemented with effect from January 1, 1983, in the State Universities and colleges affiliated to them, in accordance with the guidelines formulated by the Commission. According to information available, several universities have implemented the UGC scheme. However, the detailed information about the implementation of the UGC scheme by the various universities is not available. It has come to the notice of the Commission that certain universities have implemented 'Personal Promotion Scheme' in accordance with their own guidelines.

Resettlement of People Occupying Calcutta Metro Railway Land

596. SHRI SANAT KUMAR MANDAL : Will the Minister of TRANSPORT be pleased to state :

(a) whether Department of Railways has agreed to meet a part of the cost needed for resettlement of people who are now occupying railway land near Calcutta's circular Railway Project and if so, to what extent ; and

(b) if not, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) After eviction the responsibility for resettlement of people occupying railway land unauthorisedly does not rest with the Railways.

Rehabilitation of Leprosy Cured Patients

597. SHRI MOHANBHAI PATEL : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that the leprosy cured patients are not being treated at par with other persons after cure; and

(b) if so, what steps are being taken to rehabilitate them ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE DEPARTMENT OF FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI S. KRISHNA KUMAR) : (a) and (b) With the repeal of Lepers Act, 1898, Leprosy patients are to be treated *at par* with general public regarding employment, educational facilities and social acceptance. To enable the Leprosy patients to adapt themselves back into socially and economically productive life, the Government of India have sanctioned the establishment of Leprosy Rehabilitation Promotion Units under the National Leprosy Eradication Programme. Facilities are also provided by the Government and voluntary organisations for vocational training of disabled patients in selected institutions.

Indo-Pak Cultural Agreement

598. SHRI SOMNAHH RATH : Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE, DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) Whether it is a fact that Indo-Pak Cultural agreement has been signed in the 1st week of February, 1986; and

(b) If so, what are the main features of the agreement ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF EDUCATION AND CULTURE (SHRIMATI SUSHILA ROHATGI) : (a) and (b) No Cultural Co-operation Agreement has been signed with Pakistan so far.

[*Translation*]

Modernisation and Replacement of Cargo Handling Equipments

599. SHRI KAMLA PRASAD RAWAT : Will the Minister of TRANSPORT be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government are aware that cargo handling equipments at ports are old and out of date;

(b) if so, whether there is a need to replace these out of date equipments with the modern machinery and equipments with a view to make the country's exports competitive in the international market; and