

have already been charged for in the disposal cost of these flats and these flats are to be maintained by DDA for a certain period as per the break-up given against their disposal cost; and

(c) if so, the steps proposed to be taken to relieve the allottees of these colonies of this taxation?

THE MINISTER OF WORKS AND HOUSING AND SUPPLY AND REHABILITATION (SHRI SIKANDAR BAKHT): (a) Yes, Sir, as all built up properties attract taxation by the MCD, irrespective of the fact whether the services have been provided by the MCD or not.

(b) Some amount is added in the cost, for day-to-day maintenance of the flats, till they are handed over to the MCD.

However, the DDA has recently decided to include the cost of maintenance services in the disposal cost on a percentage basis.

(c) Does not arise in view of the position explained in (a) above.

Working Group on Art and Culture

25. SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA: Will the Minister of EDUCATION, SOCIAL WELFARE AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether a Working Group constituted to advise Government for development of Art and Culture have recommended for provision of inputs for its development during the 6th Plan period;

(b) if so, kinds of inputs recommended therein; and

(c) steps proposed to be taken to provide it?

THE MINISTER OF EDUCATION, SOCIAL WELFARE AND CULTURE (DR. PRATAP CHANDRA CHUNDER): (a) to (c). The Working Group on Art and Culture set up by the Department of Culture to advise on the approach

and priorities for the Sixth Five Year Plan has suggested that in view of the importance of cultural development in the process of national progress, the Plan allocations for cultural development in the Sixth Plan should commensurate with the programmes of various organisations and that funds for the purpose should not be confined to the provisions made specifically for culture, but should also be reflected in other related sectoral allocations.

A tentative allocation of rupees fifty crores for the Sixth Plan period has been indicated by the Planning Commission as against the amount of rupees thirty seven crores provided for Art and Culture in the Fifth Plan. As a follow-up of the recommendations of the Working Group on Art and Culture, four Functional Groups have been set up for creating a linkage between the Department of Culture on the one hand and the Departments dealing with tribal development, rural development, communications and tourism on the other.

Prime Minister's Letter on Afforestation

26. SHRI NATVARLAL B. PARMAR: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND IRRIGATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Prime Minister had addressed a letter to State Chief Ministers urging them to work out concrete programmes for afforestation and over-all measures to protect the country's ecological endowment;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether any steps have been taken to allot more funds to the States on this subject; and

(d) steps suggested to make the annual Vanmahotsava programmes meaningful and more effective involving participation of the ordinary man?