

in-aid as obtained from the State Governments is laid on the table of the House.

(Placed in library. (See No. LT-3928|82)

(c) and (d). Foreign agencies extend financial assistance to voluntary organisations doing family planning work in India. There has been no estimate of such assistance.

#### Decline in Indian Arts in Singapore

7886. SHRI BALASAHB VIKHE PATIL: Will the Minister of EDUCATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether his attention has been drawn to the press report in the 'Hindustan Times' of 16 March, 82 under the heading 'Marked decline in Indian arts in Singapore;

(b) if so, what are the details in this regard;

(c) what are the reasons for the decline in Indian arts in Singapore;

(d) number of Indian artists sent there;

(e) whether Government have made any assessment in respect of progre of Indian arts in other countries and if so, with what results; and

(f) what steps Government have so far taken to encourage and popularise Indian arts in foreign countries?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRIES OF EDUCATION AND CULTUR EAND SOCIAL WELFARE (SHRIMATI SHEIL AKAUL): (a) to (f). The press report relates essentially to the alleged decline in the cultural activities of persons of Indian origin i nSingapore, who are Singapore nationals and cultural organisations run by such persons. The matter, therefore, falls within the jurisdiction of a foreign government. However, the Government of India, has not received any report about the decline in Indian arts in Singapore.

Indian artists sponsored by government agencies and those going on their own or

on the invitation of local cultural organisations have been visiting Singapore regularly. For example, Smt. Shanno Khurana well-known vocalist in Hindustani style of music gave performances in Singapore in September, 1980. During 1981, two performances were given by Smt. Yamini Krisnamurthy, the famous dancer and a vocal recital by Jaya Vijaya. The famous Indian play back singers and musicians K. T. Jesudas and S. P. Balasubramaniam gave a music performances while the danseuse Chandraka Vidyasagar gave Bharatnatyam performances in Singapore in February, 1982. Ustad Amjad Ali Khan gave public performance of Sarod recital in March, 1982. A 29-member Ballet Centre Troupe of New Delhi visited Singapore from March 14—18, 1982 and gave performances. The exact number of such artists, however, is not known.

Review of our cultural relations with foreign countries and promotion of Indian arts in other countries is a continuing process. The Government has been pursuing a policy of cultural cooperation with foreign countries through a system of bilateral cultural agreements and other programmes aimed at projecting Indian culture and arts abroad. By now cultural agreements have been concluded with 63 countries. The cultural agreements and cultural exchange programmes provide their inter alia for exchange of artists, performing troupes, art exhibitions, lecture-demonstration tours of artists, participation in each other's national/international conferences, film festivals, book fairs, etc.

Assistance is also provided through our Missions abroad to various organisations in foreign countries to encourage and popularise Indian arts and culture. Indian books and art objects are also presented to selected institutions with the same objective.

#### Application of Laser in Eye Surgery

7887. SHRI S. M. KRISHNA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether a simple, portable laser device for eye surgery is lying unused for want of commercialism after satisfactory testing;