

year is also determined by the General Council. Suggestions and recommendations for Awards are invited from Members of the General Council, Institutions recognised by the Akademi, State Sangeet Natak Akademies, Fellows and previous Award Winners of the Akademi, and individuals eminent in the fields of dance, drama and music. These agencies are asked to recommend three names in order of preference in each category. The nominations received are placed before the Executive Board which recommends a panel of names, based on the nominations received, for the consideration of the General Council. The final selection is made by the General Council.

#### Taxes on Sulphuric Acid

1278. { Dr. P. N. Khan:  
Shri Subodh Hansda:  
Shri Basumatari:  
Shri S. C. Samanta:

Will the Minister of Steel and Heavy Industries be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that due to heavy imposition of taxes on sulphuric acid the production of Ammonium Sulphate and other chemical fertilizers has gone down in private and public sectors;

(b) if so, the steps taken by Government to keep the production steady; and

(c) whether this will affect the next year's agricultural production?

**The Minister of Steel and Heavy Industries (Shri C. Subramaniam):**

(a) to (c). Production has not gone down on account of the imposition of excise duty on Sulphuric Acid. There will, however, be a slight increase in the price of fertilizers in the production of which Sulphuric Acid is utilized. Government have taken care to ensure that the increase in price is only marginal so that the off-take of fertilizers is not retarded. It is not, therefore, likely to have any adverse

affect on next year's agricultural production.

#### Foreign Scholarships

**1279. Shri P. Kunhan:** Will the Minister of Education be pleased to state:

(a) how many foreign scholarships have been awarded during the past five years to persons belonging to the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes from amongst the Government of India Scholarships; and

(b) the State-wise details thereof?

**The Minister of Education (Dr. K. L. Shrimali):** (a) and (b). A statement giving the requisite information in respect of schemes administered by the Ministry of Education is laid on the Table of the House. [See Appendix dix II, annexure No. 23].

#### Fertilizer Projects in West Bengal

1280. { Shri S. C. Samanta:  
Shri Subodh Hansda:  
Shri Basumatari:  
Shri B. K. Das:

Will the Minister of Steel and Heavy Industries be pleased to state:

(a) whether the machineries for Fertilizer Projects in West Bengal have been arranged;

(b) is so, from which country;

(c) whether it is a fact that these will not be able to maintain the time schedule; and

(d) what are the interim steps Government propose to take to make good the deficit in fertilizer production?

**The Minister of Steel and Heavy Industries (Shri C. Subramaniam):**

(a) and (b). Negotiations with an American consortium are in an advanced stage for the supply of equipment for the fertilizer project at Durgapur in West Bengal.

(c) There has been some delay in making foreign collaboration arrangements for this project and, therefore,