

who asked the question, it is his party which gave the direction. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI N. JANARDHANA REDDY: I am asking the Government, not the party.

SHRI P.R. KUMARAMANGALAM: It is his party which was in power gave the direction. Let me make it clear that this is done only when the State Government recommends and gives consent. We are very categorical about it. We do not do it directly unless such a situation arises. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI N. JANARDHANA REDDY: The State Chief Minister has requested you to review it. ...*(Interruptions)* It has appeared in the Press. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI P.R. KUMARAMANGALAM: I am sorry to say that the Chief Minister of Andhra Pradesh has not written a letter to me or made a request to review it. In case such a letter comes, I shall look into it.

SHRI N. JANARDHANA REDDY: You never mentioned about the rate at which you are supplying. That is more important.

SHRI P.R. KUMARAMANGALAM: The rate, as I said, would be the NTPC rate. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI N. JANARDHANA REDDY: It is not the SEB rate. SEB rate is Rs. 3.75 per unit. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: No, please.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI P.R. KUMARAMANGALAM: It is the NTPC rate.

SHRI BIKRAM KESHARI DEO: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to know from the hon. Minister, out of the projects taken up by the Power Grid, how many 400 kv Sub-stations and 132 kv Sub-stations have been installed in Orissa

Secondly, the 6/660 MW project...

MR. SPEAKER: You can ask only one supplementary and no second supplementary.

SHRI BIKRAM KESHARI DEO: Sir, this is in continuation of that.

Sir, I would like to know when would the 6x660 MW project, which is coming up in the State of Orissa, evacuate power and when is the project contemplated to be completed.

SHRI P.R. KUMARAMANGALAM: Sir, the situation as in Orissa is that there are three projects. The Load and Despatch and Communication Centre of the Eastern region which is expected to be completed by the year 2002. The amount of money sanctioned is Rs. 210 crore. The Talcher project is to be completed by 2003. It is of Rs. 3,589.17 crore and the Western-Eastern Inter-Regional Link is of Rs. 680 crore.

With regard to Hirma Project or the 6x660 MW Thermal Power Plant, we have run into a little problem because the Government of Orissa is insisting on 12 per cent free power being given in addition to the coal royalty. It has never happened in any other thermal project, thereby raising the tariff to a non-saleable situation. The purchasing States in this Inter-State Project refuse to take on the burden on this 12 per cent. So, until that is sorted out, there is no way in which the dates for the Hirma Project can be given.

[Translation]

SHRI BHAJAN LAL: Mr. Speaker, Sir, Northern India has not been covered in this question. ...*(Interruptions)* Thereafter, wherever there is need of power, there ...*(Interruptions)* Northern India assumes greater significance in this matter as it caters to the grain requirement of the country. There the power is required. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: It is not so.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI BHAJAN LAL: You do not allow any Member from northern belt to raise questions. That is not fair.

THE Minister of PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND Minister of TOURISM (SHRI MADAN LAL KHURANA): Bhajan Lal ji, the train has already left.

[English]

Festivals of India Abroad

*563. SHRI P. UPENDRA: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether several Festivals of India were organised in various countries in the past;

(b) if so, the details thereof and names of the countries where Festivals of India are proposed to be held in the near future;

(c) whether Government are sluggish in organising these festivals; and

(d) if so, the reasons therefor?

[Translation]

THE Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT AND Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Festivals of India were held in UK in 1982, France in 1985-86, USA in 1985-86, Sweden in 1987, USSR in 1987-88, Japan in 1988, Germany in 1991-92, China in 1994 and Thailand in 1995-97. There is a proposal to hold a festival in Italy.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

[English]

SHRI P. UPENDRA: Sir, after a hesitant start with the Festival of India in the UK in 1982, there were a series of Festivals of India in various countries. In fact, it was Shri Rajiv Gandhi who gave a thrust to this concept of Festivals of India abroad as a part of our cultural diplomacy. This was serving a very useful purpose in propagating the Indian culture abroad and also through reciprocal festivals in India by acquainting our people with the cultural traits of other countries. But after that it has been derailed.

During Shri Narasimha Rao's regime, there were three festivals, but after that, no Festival of India has taken place.

In answer to Part 'C' of the question, the hon. Minister has said that 'the Government is not sluggish in organising the Festivals of India'. But from 1995, not a single Festival of India has been held. I would like to know what does the hon. Minister mean by sluggishness. Is it not sluggishness?

The hon. Minister has stated that there would be a Festival of India in Italy. I would like to know whether it is a part of the scheme of a series of Festivals or is it

just a stray festival that the Government is going to organise.

There is Directorate of Festivals in the Ministry of Human Resource Development. I would like to know what is it doing. Is it sitting idle? I would also like to know whether they are going to organise a series of festivals and whether they are going to involve the ICCR in organising those festivals.

[Translation]

DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI: Sir, Festivals of India was organised in Thailand in 1995 and 1997. Therefore, to say that no festival has been organised during the last three years. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI P. UPENDRA: It was organised in 1995.

DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI: It was organised from 1995 to 1997.

SHRI P. UPENDRA: It was held there in 1995 and here in 1997.

Dr. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI: That is what I am saying that it was held between 1995 and 1997. The countries where we hold Festivals of India, later organise these festivals in our country. This is on exchange basis. This series is on the same pattern. A decision has been taken to organise a Festival in Italy. We have already given them the Calender of events and the programme. We have also informed them about the protocol and we are awaiting the response from the Italian Government. As soon as we get the response, we would go ahead with the matter. This was to be held in October, but as so far, we have not got any response from the Italian Government. It may not be possible to hold it in October. Further dates would be decided depending upon their response. Germany is organising a Festival here in 1999. The Festivals Division does not sit quiet. It all depends upon the response of the host Government. We are making efforts. Dates have been fixed, protocol has been sent and list of programmes has been finalised. We are waiting for their response, so that we could move ahead in this direction.

Secondly, this should be borne in mind that during 1997-98 many programmes are being held in connection with the Golden Jubilee celebrations of India's Independence. These programmes are not only being held within the country but also abroad. During 1997-98 lot many programmes are being held at various places in

the country. The Departments are not sitting quiet. Our Ministry is active in this matter. We want to have cultural exchanges with other countries on this basis so that we can have better knowledge of their culture and they can understand us better. There is no laxity on our part nor will we allow any laxity.

[*English*]

SHRI P. UPENDRA: Sir, there is a lot of disturbances in the House. I am not able to hear anything. A lot of running commentaries are going on.

MR. SPEAKER: What is this? Order please. No running commentaries please.

SHRI P. UPENDRA: Sir, the Festivals of India find place in the draft National Cultural Policy. They are a part of the National Cultural Policy. The Approach Paper for the National Cultural Policy was approved by the Standing Committee of the Ministry of Human Resource Development more than three years ago and it was sent back to the Ministry. The Ministry is supposed to place a final draft of the National Cultural Policy before Parliament long time ago. So far, it has not been done. What steps are you going to take to finalise the draft National Cultural Policy? When are you going to place it before Parliament because the Festival of India are also a part of the National Cultural Policy?

DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI: Sir, this question does not arise from this Question. ...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI P. UPENDRA: It arises. ...(*Interruptions*) How can he say that it does not arise? The festivals of India are a part of the National Cultural Policy. ...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI SHARAD PAWAR: It is the responsibility of the Speaker to decide whether this question does not arise or not. The Minister is not supposed to reply in this manner. You cannot say that. How can you say that?. ...(*Interruptions*)

DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI: Sir, I will need a separate notice for it. ...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI P. UPENDRA: You can say that but you cannot say that it does not arise. ...(*Interruptions*) If you are not prepared, you can tell, 'I am not prepared.' ...(*Interruptions*)

[*Translation*]

SHRI VIJAY GOEL: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the hon. Minister has given shortest possible reply to the question. I do not think there can be a shorter reply than this. The hon. Member had sought details about the festivals and question hour provides an opportunity to us to get the

information about these festivals. But the reply does not mention anything worthwhile except the places where festivals were held during the last few years. In the reply it has been mentioned that some festivals were held in 1998 whereas some were held from 1995 to 1997.

Secondly, I would like to know about the expenses incurred in these Festivals. The hon. Minister has mentioned about the Golden Jubilee celebrations but the hon. Members do not know as to which of these programmes are being held within the country and abroad. Would the hon. Minister be pleased to inform the House in detail about the programmes that would be held abroad, particularly in Italy. I would also like to know how much expenses were incurred on the programmes during these festivals.

DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI: If there is a programme to be held in Italy, the inauguration would be held in Rome on 5th and 6th October. ...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI P. UPENDRA: What do you mean by saying 'if it is to be'.

DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI: You have not heard my reply carefully. It depends on the Italian Government. If the response is not received this year then the festival would be held later. But whenever the festival is held, the inauguration would be held at Theatre Opera in Rome. Then the Festival of Classical Dance and Music would be held in Milan, Verona, Padua, Bologna, and Naples Theatre. Buddha to Gandhi: India's Heritage of Love, Peace and Tolerance (Dialogue/symposium) (two days) would be held at Palazzo delle Esposizioni in Rome or Complesso D.S. Michelangelo. Then, the performance will be a month long painting exhibition, photographic exhibition, book exhibition and film festival. All these events would be held at Rome, Milan, Turin, Remis, Urine, Bolan, Ramini, Geneva, Pisa, Perugia, Naples, Pelormo, Kepliyari. Then there will also be an exhibition on Costumes and Textiles.

[*English*]

MR. SPEAKER: He wants to know the expenditure?

DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI: He wants all the details. He asked for all the details.

[Translation]

SHRI VIJAY GOEL: The Minister is right. It is I who had sought the details and had also asked for the expenditure to be incurred. ...*(Interruptions)*

DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI: I will give the details. I am giving details. He has asked for the details.

SHRI VIJAY GOEL: All right, please give the details.

DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI: Please be attentive. The hon. Member said that he wanted the details. I am giving the details.

SHRI VIJAY GOEL: All right, details should come.

DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI: Whatever details he wants, I will give. Thereafter, photography exhibition, book exhibition, film exhibition would be held. Then an exhibition on costumes and textiles, fashion show, science and technology exhibition, book exhibition would also be held.

[English]

SHRI ANIL BASU: It relates to the internal conflict of the BJP.

SHRI N.K. PREMCHANDRAN: That is not the answer to the main Question.

DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI: I am answering. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Premchandran, please sit down. Let him complete.

[Translation]

SHRI VIJAY GOEL: Whatever I have asked please reply that.

DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI: It is a question asked by an hon. Member. I have to reply that.

SHRI CHANDRASHEKHAR SAHU: Let it take half an hour, but please give the details.

SHRI ANIL BASU: But, it is also-not proper to cause inconvenience for the House.

SHRI JAGAT VIR SINGH DRONA: But he should give the details.

[English]

DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI: Book Exhibition, Seminar, Tribal and Folk Art and Craft Exhibition, Folk Festival: (i) Indian Village (comprising folk music and dance, folk art and craft, food and ambiance),

[Translation]

These events would be held at Rome and Sari. The Folk Music and Dances would be held at Florence, Pardia, Gairona, Naples, Plormo, Kapliyari. The expenditure on these events and the earlier ones has come to Rs. 40 crores. Now the whole 1995. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI ANIL BASU: There should an orientation programme on how to give reply.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: No, let him complete please. Please take your seat.

...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRI VIJAY GOEL: Does this expenditure of 40 crore rupees relate to one festival or all festivals?

DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI: The total expenditure of all the previous festivals has been Rs. 40 crores. I would also say as to how much has been spent country-wise.

SHRI VIJAY GOEL: Please say about Italy. What will the expenditure?

DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI: A provision of about 2 crore and forty two lakh rupees has been made for the festival to be held in Italy. His question is what we have done abroad at the end of Fiftieth anniversary of independence. I want to say as to what we are doing.

SHRI VIJAY GOEL: Please send a copy giving all these details.

DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI: That is a different issue.

[English]

SHRI E. AHAMED: I would like to know from the hon. Minister the criterion adopted by the Government in selecting the countries to conduct Festivals of India. I would also like to know whether the Government has approached any country in the Middle-East or Africa, especially the countries where there are millions of Indians living. I would like to know the details from the hon. Minister.

[Translation]

DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI: When such festivals are to be held the ICCR generally takes the initiative and makes contacts in this regard. Presently talks are being held with Turkmenistan to hold India festival there. If it is settled and protocol finalized then the matter would be pursued further. Both the host and the Government must agree to it. Government's consent alone does not matter.

[English]

SHRI E. AHAMED: The hon. Minister did not give the names of the countries which have been approached. That is my question. I would like to know whether they have approached any country in the Middle-East or not. That is my question.

[Translation]

SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PATIL: Sir, these festivals were initiated with the objective of familiarising the people of foreign countries more and more with the culture of India and also familiarising the people of India more and more with the culture of other countries. The other objective was to attract more and more foreign tourists to this country. Thirdly, in the present day world the cultural international relations have assumed significance, we want to make some progress in this direction through such festivals. I would ask the Government whether it considers these objectives to be right and if so, what steps are proposed to be taken in this direction to achieve these objectives?

DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI: The objectives enumerated by the hon. Member are very much right and the Government of India agree to these objectives. We are making all our efforts that the culture of India is

well reflected before the world and we, the Indians get acquainted with the cultural events taking place world over. Not only we should be seized of cultural events but also we should see as to how we could improve our relations on cultural ground with the rest of the world. That is why as I have stated currently the negotiations are on with Italy in this regard. Germany is going to hold its festival next year in India. We are also holding talks with Turkmenistan. This is the position from recent period till now. We are also trying to ensure that foreign cultural troupes visit India to participate in the golden jubilee concluding celebrations of independence. I hope that on the occasion of 15th August hon. Members would witness our cultural relations which we cherish with our neighbouring and other Asian countries whom we have invited to participate in this celebration. Particularly the ICCR is very much active in this work. Though this department is not under my administrative control yet we have a good rapport with them. Our ministry would extend its full cooperation and complement their efforts. We are taking all steps to establish good cultural relations with the world.

[English]

SHRI VAIKO: Mr. Speaker, Sir, when the Festival of India was held in the United States of America many valuable treasures from our museums and even sanctimonious idols from the *Garbhagrihas* of the temples of Tamil Nadu were taken. When these valuable treasures were taken to the United States of America some of them got damaged. Despite a stiff resistance and objections from religious head there was a move to take these idols and the issue was raised in both the Houses of Parliament. And finally the Government dropped the idea. Even the most valuable pieces which were taken then got damaged.

Sir, the famous portrait of *Mona Lisa* never was allowed to be taken out of France. They are going to hold a Festival of India in Rome, Milan. That is why, I am afraid. That is why I am asking the hon. Minister whether he will take into consideration this aspect because we should not commit the same mistake which was committed in 1984-85.

DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI: We would protect each and every exhibit taken outside India and see to it that our cultural heritage do not get damaged.