

Girl Child, when will it be done?

**PROF. M.G.K. MENON:** Sir, as far as the Government is concerned, it has a very clear view that there should be no discrimination in respect of female infants, no sex determination through amniocentesis which is meant to lead to female infanticide. The question asked by the hon. Member relates to actual legislative measures and implementation. There are major problems in working this out in detail. This will have to be gone through and understood before one enacts legislation for implementation. But, in the meantime, there are several other legislations which are available to curb this menace.

**SHRIMATI UMA GAJAPATHI RAJU:** Sir, if they do not do in the Year of the Girl Child, when are they going to do it?

**PROF. RAM GANESH KAPSE:** Mr. Speaker, there is already legislation in Maharashtra.

**MR. SPEAKER:** I have not called you. I have called Mr. Asim Bala.

**DR. ASIM BALA:** Sir, in the country as a whole, as we all know, the literacy percentage of girl child is dismal. In Madhya Pradesh and Orissa tribal belt, the girl literacy percentage is only 3.9.

I would like to know whether there is any proposal in the Ministry of Human Resource Development to improve the literacy percentage of tribal girl child in the tribal areas? Is he having such a proposal or not?

**MR. SPEAKER:** Question Hour is over.

## WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

### Concessions to Artists

\*557. **SHRIMATI VYJAYANTI MALA BALI:** Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it has been the policy of the Government to encourage the performing artist in promoting culture and arts;

(b) whether Government have provided some concessions/ facilities to the artists for furtherance of the cause of art; and

(c) if so, the details of such concessions/ facilities given and the nodal agencies channelising these facilities?

**THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND MINISTER OF STATE IN DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (PROF. M.G.K. MENON):** (a) The Government does provide encouragement to performing artists as it does to other artists and organisations as well for promoting art and culture.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

## STATEMENT

Sl. No	Concession/Facility	Nodal Agency
1	2	3
1.	Allotment of Government accommodation under Artists' Quota.	Department of Culture, Ministry of Human Resource Development.
2.	Exemption, to non-profitmaking institutions, of customs duty leviable on goods gifted by donors abroad or purchased out of donations received in foreign exchange for promotion of arts or culture or both.	—do—
3.	Travel Subsidy for foreign travel.	—do—
4.	Emeritus Fellowships to the most eminent artists.	—do—
5.	Fellowships to outstanding artists.	—do—
6.	Scholarships <sup>शैक्षणिक</sup> <sub>अनुदान</sub> to workers in different cultural fields.	—do—
7.	Financial assistance to persons distinguished in letters, arts etc. who may be in indigent circumstances.	—do—

Sl. No.	Concession/Facility	Nodal Agency
1	2	3
8.	50% concession for rail travel in second class for bonafide professional parties.	Indian Railways (Chief or Divisional Commercial Superintendent, Area Officer, etc.) on recommendations of Central or State Sangeet Natak Akademies.
9.	50% concession for rail travel to amateur artists.	Indian Railways (Chief or Divisional Commercial Superintendent, Area Officer, etc.)