

[*English*]

**SHRI ANANDA GAJAPATHI RAJU :** Sir, the SC/ST students who are educationally, economically and socially backward, when they drop out, they go into rural vocations like tending sheep, goat etc. Can they be given mechanical skills once they drop out of these schools so that they can get into urban trades so that their income is not less and they are also compensated for having dropped-out of the schools.

**SHRI P.V. NARASIMHA RAO :** This is precisely what is being done. The new policy very clearly says that. The whole gamut of non-formal education is intended, among others, for those who have dropped out of the school. They could come back to the school if they so wish. But meanwhile, they will be given informal education plus skills that would perhaps stand them in good stead when they enter life. It is a question of continuous education being imparted, each according to what he can imbibe. This is the sweep of the whole idea. We are working out the details.

[*Translation*]

**SHRI DILEEP SINGH BHURIA :** Mr. Speaker, Sir, I want to ask the hon. Minister as to how can we even imagine to enter the 21st century, when there are so many drop-outs. Can we improve our social system to the extent that there is equality. If we can do it, then what steps are being taken in that regard?

**MR. SPEAKER :** You should have asked instead as to who are the recipients of these scholarships. Are the scholarships awarded to only those who belong to the Scheduled Tribes and other backward classes, regardless of whether they have achieved success in life and have moved upward? Do the Children of those persons who have become officers still receive these Scholarships?

**SHRI DILEEP SINGH BHURIA :** Yes, they also get it.

**MR. SPEAKER :** Why should they get; only those people should get who do not have any means.

**SHRI DILEEP SINGH BHURIA :** I agree with you.

**MR. SPEAKER :** They get all the benefits; others should also get it.

[*English*]

**SHRI P.V. NARASIMHA RAO :** The question of drop-outs cannot be tackled from Delhi. I am absolutely clear about it. I have made it clear to the House and elsewhere that the question of drop-out can be solved only by what we call meticulous localised micro-planning. It has to begin with the *Sarpanch* of the village. It has to begin with those elders of the village whose word counts in the village. We will have to talk to reach parent who is not prepared to send his child to school. It really goes to that level. If we are not prepared to do that, then I can give some kind of formal answer and we forget about it and the question recurs again and again. I have said that the remedy lies in my programme in going right down to the grass-root level and that is what is being planned. We are having meetings with the *Sarpanches*. I have visited several villages. I have posed this challenge to the *Sarpanches*. And they have gladly accepted it. I am going to visit the same villages next year to see how much drop out has been reduced. This is the kind of planning which will have to be done, not by me alone but by Members of Parliament, by Members of Legislatures, by all important persons in the locality. If there is any other way, any short-cut, I am prepared to take it. I have not come across any short-cut; I have not been able to think of any short-cut.

[*Translation*]

#### Setting up of Regional Cultural Centres

\*349. **SHRI HARISH RAWAT :** Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether Regional Cultural Centres are being set up to promote and preserve culture and art of each region;

(b) if so, the steps being taken to promote and preserve the particular type

of culture of Northern part of the country along Himalayas;

(c) whether a Himalayan Cultural Centre is proposed to be opened at some central place in Himalayan region;

(d) if so, by what time; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF EDUCATION AND CULTURE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI KRISHNA SAHI) : (a) to (e). A statement is given below.

#### Statement

(a) Yes, Sir. Seven Zonal Cultural Centres have been set up in the country recently to promote and preserve culture and art of the different regions.

(b) One of the objects of these Zonal Centres is to make special efforts to encourage folk and tribal arts and to frame a special programme for the preservation and strengthening of the vanishing art forms. Of the seven Zonal Cultural Centres four Centres viz. the North Zone Cultural Centre, Patiala, North Central Zone Cultural Centre, Allahabad, Eastern Zonal Cultural Centre, Santiniketan and North East Zone Cultural Centre, Dimapur would also be concerned with the promotion and preservation of the Himalayan art and culture. The efforts of the Zonal Cultural Centres will supplement the special programmes already being undertaken by the Cultural Organisations of the Department of Culture and the Scheme of financial assistance to universities and voluntary organisations for the protection of the cultural heritage of this region in regard to :

(a) Study and research of all aspects of cultural heritage;

(b) Collection of objects of art and craft and documentation of cultural artifacts including the folk, music, dance and literature;

(c) Dissemination through audio-visual programmes of art and culture;

(d) Training in traditional and folk art;

(e) Assisting and setting up of museums and libraries etc; and

(f) Preservation and conservation of monuments/paintings.

(c) to (e). There is no proposal to set up a separate Himalayan Cultural Centre at present.

SHRI HARISH RAWAT : Mr. Speaker, Sir, on the one hand I congratulate the hon. Minister for a successful, interesting and encouraging completion of the National Cultural Festival, on the other hand, I would like to express my dissatisfaction at the entirely disappointing reply. The North-West Himalayan region constitutes 10 per cent of the total area of the country. The art and culture of that region is unique. I want to ask whether any Center is going to be opened somewhere in the middle of the Western Himalayas for the promotion and preservation of the art and culture of the North-Western Himalayan region. If so, by when will it be opened ?

SHRIMATI KRISHNA SAHI : Mr. Speaker, Sir, the enthusiasm of the hon. Member is quite natural. But, at present, the Government has no such plans in this regard. But, we are all aware of the cultural heritage of the Himalayan region. Several projects have been taken up in this connection, and the prominent one among them being that of giving grants to many such organisations. Under this scheme, financial assistance upto Rs. 5 lakhs is given to universities, voluntary organisations and individuals for the study, research and promotion of the arts of Himalayan region. As for more details, the Archaeological Survey of India is running a project in Ladakh. Further, the Sangeet Natak Academy has taken up a project dealing with the documentation of the various arts. Grants are being given for these schemes. The Sahitya Academy has given recognition to Dogri and Nepali as a literary language. Books are being published. Buddhist and Tibetan writings and other works of historical importance have been kept in the National Museum gallery for research purposes and work is in progress. The

most important fact is that a new scheme is being operated under which the National Museum of Anthropology has been entrusted with the responsibility of co-ordination. This scheme is being successfully implemented.

**SHRI HARISH RAWAT :** I am more than satisfied with the detailed reply of the hon. Minister, because she did not touch upon the main issue in my question. In this connection, I would like to know from the hon. Minister what are the budget allocations of zonal Cultural Centres, what sort of programmes are prepared by them, what machinery is available with them to evaluate their work and to ensure that the culture of that region is being actually promoted by such centres ?

**SHRI P.V. NARASIMHA RAO :** Sir, seven centres have been established in one year to date. These centres envisage promotion of culture in a region as a whole. We have not envisaged sub regions in which a particular ethnic group lives e.g. Andhra Pradesh in the South. It comes under South Central as well as in the South. Ours is a mixed culture and it cannot be partitioned into watertight compartments.

The Zonal Centre over there would preserve the culture of the Himalayan region and will prepare programmes with that purpose also. We are not going to set up a separate centre for those areas. Otherwise, a gap will be created between the foothills and the upper reaches of hills. It should not happen. The culture of the Himalayas has spread upto 2000 miles and we shall certainly like that its cultural identity is preserved. A scheme is being formulated in this direction, but the philosophy behind establishment of a centre is totally different. The very basis of the establishment of such centres does not require establishment of such centres above and below the hills. So far as the cultural diversity of the region is concerned, the centre will formulate a separate scheme for it. About the budget, she will explain to you.

**MR. SPEAKER :** The treasurer is always a different person.

**SHRIMATI KRISHNA SAHI :** The total financial budget allocation of the

Seventh Plan is Rs. 3 crores, and out of it Rs. 40 lakhs are for the Himalayan region.

[*English*]

**PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE :** One bowler is not sufficient to take the wicket !

**SHRI RANJIT SINGH GAEKWAD :** To evoke a cultural awakening amongst the Members of Parliament of both the Houses, some months ago I had circulated a letter to organise an exhibition of arts and crafts and handicrafts from each member's constituency. But there was very poor response. I would like to know whether the Government has any particular plan to get the Members of Parliaments more interested in our cultural heritage in the days to come.

[*Translation*]

**SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER :** It is a good idea.

**MR. SPEAKER :** There is a difference between profession and deeds.

**SHRIMATI KRISHNA SAHI :** The hon. Member's question is not connected with our plan for establishing cultural centres.

**MR. SPEAKER :** Earlier cultural Symposia used to be held inside our Parliament; they should be started again. Some programmes should be organised after all.

**SHRIMATI KRISHNA SHAHI :** We shall do it.

[*English*]

**SHRI E. AYYAPU REDDY :** Are there any proposals to set up sub-centres in the next year, if so what are the sub-centres which are going to be set up and how many sub-centres will be set up ? I would like to know whether Srisailem is one of the sub-centres to be set up.

**SHRI P.V. NARASIMHA RAO :** It is one of the sub-centres decided upon.

[*Translation*]

**SHRIMATI KRISHNA SAHI :** At present, there is no such proposal.

[*English*]

**SHRI P. V. NARASIMHA RAO :** She was not able to hear properly Shri Ayyapu Reddy's question. About Srisailam specifically I am making a statement, I am telling you that there is a sub-centre which is planned—whether it is going to be set up in this year or in the next year, I could not say. I can inform you that because you are the only person interested and I am the second person interested in Srisailam.

[*Translation*]

**SHRI P. NAMGYAL :** Mr. Speaker, Sir, I think my friend was not implying by his suggestion to set up a separate cultural centre, that such a centre should be kept separated. My plea is that when the people from the hill areas come to the centre established in Patiala, they feel ill at ease, because they are not too advanced in culture or in education. When these people come here, they are dazzled by the markets and other advancements. Therefore, I would request that the people living in the entire Himalayan region form almost one ethnic group as they share the same culture and can communicate in almost the same language from Ladakh to Arunachal Pradesh. Hence, in order to preserve their culture, as our hon. colleague has suggested, will a centre be set up there? I am not talking in terms of either Ladakh or Arunachal Pradesh specifically, but that a centre could be established in Dehradun, Nainital or in any such other place. Has the Government any such proposal under consideration?

**SHRI P.V. NARASIMHA RAO :** I have already said that so far as the cultural identity is concerned, these centres will make efforts to maintain it. If anything goes out of hand, then their workload would increase and as I had just said about Srisailam, we shall establish sub-centres over there. Now, whether the plains or the mountains are more advanced in culture, is a debatable point. I am not prepared to agree that the people belonging to the plains are culturally more advanced; they might be so in other things, but not in culture.

**MR. SPEAKER :** The people of hill regions are, of course, living at high altitude.

**SHRI HARISH RAWAT :** The plains are a part of the Himalayan region.

**SHRI P.V. NARASIMHA RAO :** That is why I am saying that we shall make efforts to set up sub-centres there.

**SHRI BALKAVI BAIRAGI :** Mr. Speaker, Sir, I thank the hon. Minister, for the completion of 'Apna Utsav' in the true sense of the term in the House today. I thank you for it.

**SHRI P.V. NARASIMHA RAO :** This goes on everyday.

**MR. SPEAKER :** This is a continuous process.

[*English*]

#### Satellite Survey of Himalayan Region to Forecast Floods

\*350. **SHRI G.S. BASAVARAJU :** Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state :

(a) whether the entire glaciated Himalayan region is proposed to be covered by remote sensing and telemetry through satellite to precisely forecast floods in its rivers and help in judicious management of its water resources;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the total expenditure involved and to what extent this will help to forecast floods?

**THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI B. SHANKARANAND) :**

(a) The entire glaciated Himalayan region is not proposed to be covered by Remote Sensing and telemetry through Satellite.

(b) and (c). Do not arise.

**SHRI G.S. BASAVARAJU :** Sir, the theme of the question is whether it is a fact that a number of plans have been formulated by the Snow and Avalanche Study Establishment institute which is currently engaged in the application of remote sensing techniques for snow mapping and snow-melt run-off studies?