

opened and the reaction of the Government to this state of affairs;

(b) whether it is true that replacement of old directories destroyed in the 1975 floods at Patna has not been done nor even old directories given to new connections given after August/September, 1975; and

(c) generally, how much up-to-date is a directory, when published and distributed to old subscribers?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BRIJ LAL VERMA):

(a) Directories are published annually. Out of the 8 big cities, having a population of more than one million (1971 census), telephone directories for two, namely Madras and Hyderabad, could not be published last year. However, supplementary directories were brought out and distributed to telephone subscribers as and when new exchanges were commissioned. For both these big cities, new directories are expected to be published by the end of the year.

(b) Yes, Sir, copies of the last issue had been exhausted. The new directory for Patna is expected to be published before the end of the year.

(c) Generally, within about 3 to 4 months, but sometimes it may be about 6 months.

Criteria for selecting delegations for Cultural tours in foreign countries

*778. SHRI S. S. SOMANI: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be please to state:

(a) whether there is any organisation which manages to send delegations to foreign countries for ostensible purpose of cultural tours;

(b) if so, the details regarding the guidelines issued by the Government for sending or selecting the persons for going abroad; and

(c) the details regarding the financial assistance provided by the Government to such organisations?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE): (a) Cultural delegations sponsored by the Government of India are sent abroad by the Department of Culture, Ministry of Education, Social Welfare and Culture, either directly or through the agency of Indian Council for Cultural Relations.

(b) The guidelines for selecting the persons for going abroad are laid down by the Department of Culture and are implemented through the Standing Committee set up for the purpose. Care is taken to ensure that selections made are fair and objective and on the basis of merit, keeping in view that suitable opportunities are given to our distinguished experts, exponents, scholars and troupes in their particular fields all over India, apart from ensuring an effective projection abroad of India's cultural attainments and traditions.

(c) The Department of Culture have provided for a sum of Rs. 27 lakhs for sending delegations abroad either directly or through the agency of Indian Council for Cultural Relations, in the 1977-78 budget. For *ad hoc* delegations sent out on behalf of the Ministry of External Affairs by the I.C.C.R, the expenditure is met out of grant-in-aid received from the Ministry.

मेडिकल कालेज खोलने के लिए मानदंड

*779. श्री युवराज : क्या स्वास्थ्य और परिवार कल्याण मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) क्या ऐसे कोई मानदंड हैं जिनके आधार पर मेडिकल कालेज खोले जाते हैं ; और

(ख) यदि हां, तो तत्सम्बन्धी व्यौरा क्या है ?