

sanctioned by Government are not being established within the prescribed time-limit;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the steps proposed to be taken by the Government to expedite the work of establishing the Jawahar Navodaya Vidyalayas in each District of the Country?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA) : (a) and (b). Navodaya Vidyalayas sanctioned in a particular financial year are established during the following financial year after sufficient infrastructure has been provided by the State Government at the temporary site. In some cases, there has been delay in opening up of Navodaya Vidyalayas after their sanction due to delay in providing suitable land/sufficient temporary accommodation by the concerned State Government.

(c) The Government is keen to establish Jawahar Navodaya Vidyalayas in each district of the country subject to receipt of suitable proposals, as per norms of the Samiti, including 30 acres of permanent land, free of cost, and suitable temporary accommodation and Navodaya Vidyalayas Samiti is continuously following up the matter with the State Governments concerned.

Floriculture

*231. SHRI V. SREENIVASA PRASAD :

SHRI TARA SINGH :

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) is it a fact that in India due to outdated technology and imaginative producers, the production of flowers has been adversely affected; and

(b) if so, the steps the Union Government propose to take to boost production of the flowers and to use the latest technology for Floriculture in the country?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI BALRAM JAKHAR) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Following initiatives have been taken by the Government of India for improving production of flowers in the country.

(i) The Ministry of Agriculture is implementing a Central Sector Scheme on Commercial Floriculture with an approved outlay of Rs. 10 crores in the current Plan in all the 32 States/UTs. The emphasis under the scheme is on multiplication and distribution of quality planting material, and creation of infrastructure for production, post harvest management and training of farmers.

(ii) Under another scheme on Use of Plastics in Agriculture, the Government is providing assistance for

greenhouses, drip irrigation, mulching etc., useful for production of quality flowers.

(iii) The National Horticulture Board provides assistance for integrated projects for production and post-harvest management of flower crops, through its scheme on participation in soft loan.

(iv) The Government has simplified and streamlined the procedures for bulk import of seed/planting material of flower crops which can be imported without any import permit or payment of duty.

(v) Ministry of Commerce is providing assistance for promoting export of flowers through its schemes for creation of infrastructure, market promotion and air freight subsidy.

(vi) ICAR has strengthened research efforts for developing new varieties and standardization of agro techniques in different flower crops.

[Translation]

Ban on Trade of Scrap

*232. KUMARI UMA BHARTI :

SHRI SANAT KUMAR MANDAL :

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state :

(a) whether import of plastic and toxic waste intended for recycling has increased over the recent years since 1991-92;

(b) if so, the extent of such imports during each year;

(c) whether India is likely to incur loss as a result of the ban on the trade of scrap or rejected material proposed by the Basel Convention;

(d) whether India has registered its disagreement to some aspects of the convention relating to transboundary movement of all waste; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI RAJESH PILOT) :

(a) and (b). The available published information indicates that the imports of copper, lead and zinc wastes have decreased, while that of aluminium and plastic waste have increased. The figures of such imports from 1991-95 are as follows:

Waste Type	Quantity of Waste Imported (in tons)			
	1991-92	1992-93	1993-94	1994-95
Aluminium	582.50	727.25	5433.49	6625.35
Copper	13796.47	8265.09	8242.19	7476.00
Lead	16389.40	8234.84	13575.47	13509.15
Zinc	27724.06	34189.45	33530.78	23145.28
Plastic	9008.59	20182.46	53934.04	344991.79

(c) to (e). The ban to be imposed under the Basel Convention on Control of Transboundary Movement of Hazardous Wastes pertains only to those wastes which are characterised as 'hazardous'. It is not likely to include the recyclable and non-hazardous wastes such as scrap. The Technical Working Group of the Basel Convention has been given the task of 'hazard characterisation' of wastes subject to the Basel Convention. The Group has already commenced this work.

India has not registered disagreement on the Decisions of the Convention and has supported the recent Decisions of the Parties to the Convention to impose a ban on the transboundary movement of hazardous wastes from parties and other States which are members of Organisation of Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD), European Community (EC) and Liechtenstein, with a view to prevent dumping of hazardous wastes in the non-OECD countries which includes India. India has also supported the exclusion of scraps and other recyclable materials from the ban. However, items to be characterised as 'hazardous' under the Basel Convention will come under the purview of the Ban and India as a Party to the Basel Convention has to abide by such Decisions.

According to Rule 11 of the Hazardous Wastes (Management and Handling) Rules, 1989, notified under the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986, the import of hazardous wastes is not permitted for dumping and disposal. However, such wastes are allowed for recycling and re-use after considering each case on its merits.

Financial Assistance to Professional Groups and Individuals

* 233. SHRI DATTA MEGHE :

SHRI N.J. RATHVA :

Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to grant financial assistance to professional groups and individuals for performing Art Projects;

(b) if so, the details of the scheme and the criteria for selection of the approved Projects;

(c) the maximum amount of grant admissible to individuals or professional groups;

(d) the details of the proposals for financial assistance received from cultural organisations of each state; and

(e) the number of proposals approved and number of proposals lying pending?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Under the scheme, financial assistance is provided to dramatic groups, theatre groups, music ensembles, orchestra units, Children's theatre, puppet theatre, solo artists and all genres of performing art activities on a non-recurring and ad-hoc basis. Normally, the applications received with the recommendation of State Governments, Union Territories or State Academies are considered by an Expert Committee and the grant is sanctioned on the merits of each case.

(c) The maximum amount admissible under the scheme to an individual or a professional group is Rs.50,000/-.

(d) and (e). A statement is enclosed.

STATEMENT

The State-wise number of proposals received during the current year from individuals and Cultural Organisations for the Financial assistance for performing art projects as also the number of proposals approved and pending are given in the table below :

S. No.	Name of the State/U.T.	Total No. proposals received	No. of proposals approved	No. of proposals pending
1.	Assam	2	1	—
2.	Andhra Pradesh	36	2	17
3.	Bihar	100	12	9
4.	Delhi	44	23	6
5.	Gujarat	5	1	4
6.	Goa	1	—	1
7.	Haryana	3	1	2
8.	Himachal Pradesh	2	1	1
9.	Jammu & Kashmir	3		3
10.	Karnataka	52	20	13
11.	Kerala	16	7	5
12.	Maharashtra	16	5	1
13.	Manipur	90	2	47
14.	Madhya Pradesh	10	3	4
15.	Orissa	10	3	5
16.	Punjab	10	—	10
17.	Rajasthan	4	1	3
18.	Tamilnadu	13	4	5
19.	Uttar Pradesh	29	5	18
20.	West Bengal	18	11	2
21.	Chandigarh	3	2	—
22.	Pondicherry	5	—	5
Total :		472	104	161