

(b) if so, the steps which Government propose to take at the national level to systematically survey and identify the educational and consequent book needs of the above segment ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF EDUCATION AND CULTURE (SHRIMATI SUSHILA ROHTAGI): (a) The Working Group on the national book policy has pointed out the need for primary education through the mother tongue and providing sound pedagogical base linking mother tongue with school language in a bilingual education framework.

(b) The recommendations made by the working group are under examination.

Laboratory Technologists In Teaching and Non-Teaching Hospitals

7668. SHRI C P. THAKUR : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government are aware of the importance of part played by laboratory technologists in teaching and non-teaching hospitals ;

(b) whether Government propose any steps to improve their teaching, training and to introduce refresher courses facilities for them ;

(c) whether Government propose to set up a Council for All India Medical Laboratory Technologists ; and

(d) if so, steps taken in this direction and the outcome thereof ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE DEPARTMENT OF FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI S. KRISHNA KUMAR) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Apart from the Schemes which the State Governments India, the Union Government has a scheme of training Laboratory Technicians for which 100% assistance is provided to the States.

(b) and (d) Government do not have any such proposal at the present.

[*Translation*]

Festival of India in U.S.A.

7669. SHRI DAL CHANDER JAIN : Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) the scheme under which Festival of India was held in the U.S.A. ;

(b) the agency which was to bear the expenditure on the Festival ;

(c) whether any contributions were raised from Indian industrialists ; if so, the sources through which the amount was collected, the total amount collected, the total amount remitted and the fate of the balance amount ; and

(d) whether rare Indian art objects (idols) were exhibited there as per the existing rules ; if not, with whose permission these were sent there ; whether the photographs of these art objects appeared on the postal stamps of that country ; and if so, with whose approval it was done ; whether all these actions were covered by the rules ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF EDUCATION AND CULTURE (SHRIMATI SUSHILA ROHTAGI) : (a) Festival of India in USA was held following a decision taken by the late Prime Minister during her visit to USA in July, 1982.

✓ A number of agencies under different Ministries of the Government were made responsible for the various constituent events of the Festival and made separate budget provisions for the same.

(c) Yes, Sir. Letters were sent by the Chairman, Advisory Committee for the Festival of India to leading industrialists in India giving details of the Festival programmes in the USA and inviting their participation in the same through sponsorship of various events. The total amount