

(b) As per the guidelines, the Central Government bears the cost of construction of Youth Hostels whereas the State Governments are required to provide two acres of developed land free of cost with connection of water, electricity, approach road and staff quarters.

Cultural Pact with Trinidad and Tobago

6811. SHRI PRATAPRAO B. BHOSALE :

SHRIMATI MADHUREE SINGH :

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

(a) whether it is a fact that first cultural pact has been signed between India and Trinidad and Tobago;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) how this pact will improve the bilateral relations between the two countries ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF EDUCATION AND CULTURE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI KRISHNA SAHI) :

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) The Agreement signed on 13th March, 1987 envisages promoting and developing in every possible manner the relations and understanding between the two countries in the fields of art and culture, archaeology, education including academic activity in the fields of science technology, social welfare, medical research and public health, mass media, sports and games through the exchange of artistic troupes, exhibitions, specialists, teachers, intellectuals, grant of scholarships, exchange of books and other information, exchange and collaboration in the field of press, radio, broadcasting, television and cinematography etc.

The Agreement which shall come into force after ratification also provides for

drawing-up and implementation of Programmes of specific exchanges in these fields.

Effect of Anti Dowry Act

6812. DR. C. P. THAKUR : Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to refer to the reply given to Unstarred Question No. 1637 on 6 March, 1986 regarding effect of Anti Dowry Act and state :

(a) whether the Dowry Prohibition Act, 1961 despite being amended twice has not yielded the desired results;

(b) if so, whether it is proposed to amend the law further;

(c) if so, the broad proposals in this regard; and

(d) what other measures to check the dowry practice and its evils are contemplated ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS AND WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI MARGARET ALVA) : (a) to (d) The Dowry Prohibition Act, 1961, which was amended for the second time in 1986, has come into force only recently that is with effect from the 19th November, 1986. As such it is too early to vouchsafe whether the amended Act has yielded the desired results or not. The amendments made in 1986 have made the provisions of the Act more effective by widening their scope and making them more stringent. Consequential amendments have been made in the criminal laws in keeping with these amendments. Mass media campaigns against social evils have also been stepped up. The Minister of State for Women and Child Development has addressed a letter to all the Chief Ministers of the States/UTs requesting them to have the law and order machinery geared up in order to effectively carry out the amended laws. For this purpose, training

and orientation of police officers is essential. The Chief Ministers have accordingly been requested to give serious thought to this suggestion so that the police machinery is in step with the new laws. It is hoped that all these measures would help to check the dowry practice and its evil consequences.

Installation of metal detectors at Taj Mahal

6813. SHRI V. S. KRISHNA IYER : Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether metal detectors are being used at all the inlets of Taj Mahal at Agra;

(b) if not, whether there is any proposal to instal the same; and

(c) the steps Government propose to take after installation of metal detector to avoid any inconvenience to the tourists ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF EDUCATION AND CULTURE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI KRISHNA SAHI) :
(a) No, Sir.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) To avoid any inconvenience to the visitors, separate entry and exit points shall be provided.

[Translation]

Excavations of ancient sites

6814. SHRI PRATAP BHANU SHARMA : Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether excavation work has been undertaken at those ancient sites in the country which symbolise 15-20 thousand years old primitive civilization;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the action being taken by Government for preservation of these ancient sites ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF EDUCATION AND CULTURE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI KRISHNA SAHI) :
(a) and (b) As it is not possible to date a prehistoric site in absolute terms without positive corroborative evidence, nothing can be said with exactitude whether a site containing Stone Age Cultures, excavated by the Archaeological Survey of India, during the season 1986-87, actually falls between the specific date bracket of 15-20 thousand years from the present.

(c) Archaeological sites of national importance are protected by the Archaeological Survey of India for preservation.

[English]

Central assistance to control Kala Azar in Bihar

6815. DR. G. S. RAJHANS :

SHRIMATI PRABHAWATI GUPTA :

Will the Minister of Health and Family Welfare be pleased to state the details of the assistance Union Government have given or propose to give to Bihar Government to control the incidence of Kala-Azar ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (KUMARI SAROJ KHAPARDE) : The Central Government is providing the following assistance to the Government of Bihar for control of Kala Azar :-

1. DDT for insecticidal spray in affected area under National Malaria Eradication Programme.