

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI A.A. RAHIM) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) However, there have been reports in the Press and from our High Commission in Lagos regarding adverse criticism in Nigeria about certain irregular activities and financial mismanagement by some Indians.

Priority to Child Welfare Schemes during 6th Five Year Plan

2623. SHRI P.K. KODIYAN : Will the Minister of SOCIAL WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Sixth Five Year Plan had accorded top priority to child welfare in the over all frame of Social Welfare during the Plan period ;

(b) whether in accordance with this aim, schemes for integrated Child Development Services had been drawn up ;

(c) if so, how far these Schemes have been implemented ;

(d) whether target set in the Sixth Plan in respect of Child Welfare is likely to be achieved; and

(e) if not, the likely shortfall expected ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRIES OF EDUCATION AND CULTURE AND SOCIAL WELFARE (SHRI P.K. THUNGON) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) The Integrated Child Development Services (ICDS) Scheme was launched in the country during 1975-76. 150 Projects were sanctioned upto the end of Fifth Year Plan period. It has been decided to expand the ICDS Scheme so as to reach a target of 1000 Projects by the end of the Sixth Year Plan.

(d) Yes, Sir.

(e) Does not arise.

Aid to Nehru Centre

2624. DR. PRATAP WAGH : Will the Minister of EDUCATION AND CULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that the Nehru Centre is facing difficulty in completing the 'Discovery of India' Hall and a science and space museum at Bombay due to financial difficulty ;

(b) whether it is proposed to give aid and assistance to the above instruction ; and

(c) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRIES OF EDUCATION AND CULTURE AND SOCIAL WELFARE (SHRIMATI SHEILA KAUL) :

(a) Yes, Sir. The Chief Minister, Maharashtra has approached the Ministry of Education and Culture for a grant of Rs. 4.00 crore for the Nehru Centre, Bombay.

(b) and (c) The Ministry is exploring the possibility of granting a one-time financial assistance to the Centre. The State Government has been asked to furnish details of the project, including financial outlays for various items, constitution of the Centre etc.

Setting up of Regional Research Centres to know Causes of Regional Diseases

2625. SHRI MOHANLAL PATEL : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government are considering to establish Regional Research Centres in the country to know the causes of regional diseases and their treatment;