

from museum" appearing in the 'Indian Express', New Delhi dated 21 March, 1991;

(b) if so, the facts of the case;

(c) the outcome of the probe, if any, conducted into this loss of prized exhibits; and

(d) the preventive measures taken for future in addition to fix the responsibility for such losses?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI KAMAL NATH):

(a) Yes Sir.

(b) and (c). Two animal skins were found missing from the children's activity room of the Museum on 9-3-91 and an internal enquiry was carried out to trace the skins. Since these could not be traced, the matter was reported to the police on 11-3-91. According to the Police Investigation Report, the skins have not yet been traced.

(d) Security measures have been strengthened and the concerned staff have been cautioned. Responsibility could not be fixed since no conclusive evidence is found.

[Translation]

#### MICROSURGERY OF EYES

82. SHRI GOVINDRAO NIKAM : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the facility of microsurgery of eyes of Soviet Union is available in the country;

(b) whether Government propose to extend this facility to all metropolitan cities of the country;

(c) If so, when; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI D. K. THARA DEVI) : (a) and (b) Yes. At present 60 Medical Colleges and ten Regional Institutes of ophthalmology have been provided with necessary equipment for microsurgery of eyes. R.P. Centre of Ophthalmic Sciences, and the Regional

Institutes of Ophthalmology provide training in eye microsurgery to the faculty staff of Medical Colleges.

The facility of microsurgery is available at present in all the metropolitan cities.

(c) Does not arise.

(d) Does not arise.

#### RISE IN PRICE OF HOMOEOPATHIC DRUGS

83. SHRI GOVINDRAO NIKAM : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the prices of Homoeopathic medicines are rising;

(b) whether the Government have increased the taxes on raw materials used in manufacture of homoeopathic medicines; and

(c) if so, the steps proposed to be taken by the Government to check the rising prices of Homoeopathic medicines?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI D. K. THARA DEVI) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) The auxiliary duty of customs almost on all imported goods was enhanced with effect from 15-12-1990 and as a result the import duty on Lactose of a kind used in homoeopathic medicines, commonly known as 'Sugar of milk has gone up from 60% advalorem to 65% advalorem. There has been no change in the Central Excise Duty on any raw material used for production of homoeopathic drugs during the last one year.

Under the Drug Price Control order, 1987, homoeopathic drugs are not controlled for prices.

[English]

SANSKRIT UNIVERSITY AT KALADI  
KERALA

84. SHRI LAL K. ADVANI :  
SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE:

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

(a) whether the Government have approved a proposal for setting up of a Sanskrit University at Kaladi, the birth place of Adi Shankaracharya in Kerala;

(b) if so, when was the proposal approved;

(c) the present stage at which the proposal stands; and

(d) whether the Government are also considering a proposal to start a Sanskrit University at Sringeri ?

**THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI ARJUN SINGH) :** (a) to (c). The Government of Kerala has planned to establish a Sanskrit University at Kaladi. The Central Government had sanctioned an ad-hoc grant of Rs. 1.00 crore in March, 1987 to Government of Kerala for setting up of this University. The State Government constituted a three-member Committee to look into the feasibility of the proposal. The Committee submitted its report to the State Government in December, 1990. According to the information furnished by the State Government, the Bill to establish the University has not been introduced in the State Legislature.

(d) A decision has been taken in principle to set up a Sanskrit University at Sringeri. Institutional structures will be initiated which would evolve into a university over a period of time.

#### **BONDED LABOUR AND CHILD LABOUR**

**85. DR. ASIM BALA :** Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state the number of bonded labour and child labour in the country, separately ?

**THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI K. RAMAMURTHY) :** According to available information, total number of bonded labour identified and freed in the country as on 31-3-1990 was 2,44,749.

As far as the number of child labour is concerned, the latest Census figures available are with reference to the year 1981 and according to this, the number of child labour in the age group 0-14 years in the country was 13,640,872.

#### **UNDERNOURISHED MOTHERS**

**86. DR. ASIM BALA :** Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) the number of mothers suffering from undernourishment; and

(b) the result thereof on the children

**THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DEPARTMENT OF YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS AND THE DEPARTMENT OF WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT) (KUMARI MAMATA BANERJEE) :** (a) A survey conducted by the Indian Council of Medical Research under National Nutrition Monitoring Bureau (NNMB) during 1972-79 in 10 States revealed that about 24 per cent of the women had low body weight and height. As a result of such undernourishment these mothers fall into high risk categories and are likely to suffer from obstetric complications.

(b) These Undernourished mothers give birth to low weight babies. These babies are more susceptible to infections, undernourishment, nutrition related diseases, morbidity and mortality.

#### **LEGISLATION FOR BUILDING WORKERS**

**87. SHRI SOBHANA DRESWARA RAOVADDE :** Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to bring forward a legislation to protect the interests of the building and construction workers in the country ;

(b) if so, the action taken in this regard;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor ?

**THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI K. RAMAMURTHY) :** (a) to (c). A Central Legislation to protect the interests of building and construction workers in the country is under the active consideration of the Government.