

[10 December, 1999]

RAJYA SABHA

**Missing of Guru Gobind Singh's Kalgi from London's Victoria and Albert Museum**

994. SHRI K.R. MALKANI: Will the Minister of CULTURE, YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Guru Gobind Singh's Kalgi is missing from London's Victoria and Albert Museum, as reported in the Indian Express dated 3rd August, 1999;

(b) if so, why Government have not claimed this looted historic wealth of India; and

(c) why government have not pressed with the demand for return of India House Library, with all its treasures?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CULTURE, YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS (SHRI TH. CHAOBA SINGH): (a) to (c) According to the information provided by the Ministry of External Affairs, there is no accurate information about the whereabouts of the Kalgi and that in the absence of any clear evidence, it would be difficult to pursue the matter through diplomatic channels.

Further, it was also informed by the Ministry of External Affairs that the India House Library is part of the India House and therefore, of the Indian High Commission.

**Schemes to make youths self-Reliant and Employment Oriented**

†995. SHRI ONKAR SINGH LAKHAWAT: Will the Minister of CULTURE, YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are formulating any schemes to make youths self-reliant and employment oriented, as soon as they complete their college education; if so, the details thereof; and

(b) whether any scheme has been formulated to cultivate the spirit of immense patriotism as well as to protect them from the effect of westernisation and drugs; if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CULTURE, YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS (SHRI TH. CHAOBA SINGH): (a) and (b) A Scheme entitled "National Reconstruction Corps" (NRC) has been

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†Original notice of the Question was received in Hindi.

launched, on a pilot basis, with the objective of providing opportunities to the youth to participate in, and contribute to the process of nation-building and national reconstruction.

The Scheme would provide youth—who are naturally inspired by patriotism—with avenues of creative and constructive work, suited to their educational background, aptitude and interest. The NRC volunteers, during deployment on specific projects, would be imparted skill-development training to help them in finding their vocations at the appropriate stage.

Programmes under the Nehru Yuva Kendra Sangathan and the National Service Scheme, amongst others, are also being actively implemented, including in the rural areas, to channelize the energies and enthusiasm of the youth in a purposeful and positive direction.

#### **Awareness Campaign about Environment in North-East**

996. SHRI W. ANGOU SINGH: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have a plan to intensify awareness campaign relating to environment in 1999-2000 in the North-Eastern Region;

(b) if so, in what way the programme is to be taken up; and

(c) the number of NGOs involved in this programme, State-wise, with names?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI BABU LAL MARANDI): (a) and (b) The National Environment Awareness Campaign which covers the entire country has been intensified in the North-East Region during the last two years. The thrust on the North-East Region has continued during the 1999-2000 campaign also, which is already in an advanced stage of implementation. This is evident from the increase in the number of organisations participating in the campaign.

(c) State-wise list of NGOs involved in this programme during 1999-2000 is given in the Annexure [See Appendix 188, Annexure no. 29]