

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CULTURE, YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS (SHRI TH. CHAOBA SINGH): (a) and (b) The Antiquities and Art Treasures Act, 1972 is under review to identify provisions which need to be revised or strengthened. However, it will not be possible to indicate a time-frame for the completion of this exercise.

Quality of sports equipments

1706. SHRI SATISHCHANDRA SITARAM PRADHAN: Will the Minister of CULTURE, YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that sports equipments available to our sportmen are either inferior in quality or are outdated; and

(b) if so, what are Government's plans in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CULTURE, YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS (SHRI TH. CHAOBA SINGH): (a) No, Sir. The Government of India has been providing adequate assistance to the Sports Authority of India (SAI) for making quality sports equipments available to sports persons included in the National Teams.

(b) Does not arise.

Change in venue of National Youth Festival

1707. SHRI A. VIJAYA RAGHAVAN: Will the Minister of CULTURE, YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have taken any decision to change the venue of the National Youth Festival from Kerala;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor; and

(c) what are the steps taken by Government for organising the National Youth Festival?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CULTURE, YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS (SHRI TH. CHAOBA SINGH): (a) to (c) In pursuance of a request received from the Government of Gujarat, the VI National Youth Festival is being organised in that State during January, 2000.