

Indian's performance in athletics

†1702. SHRI JANESHWAR MISRA: Will the Minister of CULTURE, YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that India's performance in athletics in Asian and Olympic Games is very poor;
- (b) if so, the reasons therefor; and
- (c) the steps being taken by Government to improve India's performance?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CULTURE, YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS (SHRI TH. CHAOBA SINGH): (a) and (b) No, Sir. The performance of Indian Athlets in the last Asian Games held at Bankok in 1998 was considerably better than in the earlier Asian Games. Indian Athletes secured two Gold, six Silver and seven Bronze (total fifteen Medals), which was much higher than the 1994 Asain Games (Three Medals).

No Athletes were sent for last Olympic Games held at Atlanta in 1996.

(c) In consultation with the concerned National Sports Federations, the sports are persons being coached in the Coaching Camp held by the Sports Authority of India, with the help of Indian and Foreign Coaches. They are being provided requisite equipment, scientific support and other assistance for participation in various National and International Tournaments.

Science City in Guwahati

1703. DR. (SMT.) JOYASREE GOSWAMI MAHANTA: Will the Minister of CULTURE, YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have any plan to develop a Science City in Guwahati which is the Gateway of whole North-Eastern Region; and

(b) if not, whether Government would think about this plan positively within this Ninth Five Year Plan period in a time bound scheme?

†Original Notice of the Question was received in Hindi.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CULTURE, YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS (SHRI TH. CHAOBA SINGH): (a) and (b) No, Sir, Government has, so far, no proposal to develop a Science City in Guwahati during the Ninth Five Year Plan. However, a Regional Science Centre is operating in Guwahati since 1994.

Calendar of important events in 2000

1704. DR. C. NARAYANA REDDY: Will the Minister of CULTURE, YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have prepared any calendar of important events to be celebrated in the Year 2000.

(b) if so, what are the criteria for inclusion of items in the calendar; and

(c) if not, whether Government would consider preparation of such a calendar?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CULTURE, YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS (SHRI TH. CHAOBA SINGH): (a) to (c) In the year 2000, events are planned to commemorate historical events like the 50th Anniversary of the Republic of India, 125th Birth Anniversary of Sardar Patel, 100th Birth Anniversary of Kazi Nazrul Islam, 600th Anniversary of Sant Kabir and 300th Anniversary of the Birth of Panth Khalsa.

Further, as is customary, Museums attached to the Department of Culture organise Exhibitions on themes of public interest. The exact timing of these Exhibitions depends on the availability of objects & gallery space.

Laws dealing with ancient artefacts

1705. SHRI K. RAHMAN KHAN: Will the Minister of CULTURE, YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that existing laws dealing with the theft/smuggling of ancient artefacts are found inadequate and ineffective; and

(b) if so, whether Government propose to amend the existing laws as to protect valuable articles from being stolen/smuggled from precious monuments?