

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?