

Book Trust was created; if so, what is the ratio of its resources directed towards its vis-a-vis publishing activity; and

(c) what are the countries National Book Trust visited for organising or participating in book exhibitions during 1997-98 and with what results?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI): (a) A statement is annexed.

(b) Yes, Sir. The ratio of resources utilised for fostering book-mindedness is at par with that utilised for publishing activity. During the year 1997-98, out of Rs. 319.57 lacs, the Trust has spent an amount of Rs. 153.49 lacs towards its publishing programme and an amount of Rs. 166.08 lacs on promotional activities.

(c) (i) During the year 1997-98, the National Book Trust, India organised the 13th World Book Fair at New Delhi and one National Book Fair at Ahmedabad.

(ii) National Book Week was observed from 14 to 20 November, 1997; and two workshops, one International and the other National, were held during the year.

(iii) Besides the many literary functions organised to promote book culture, the NBT also organised several book releases, to publicize its new and exciting books.

(iv) During the year 1997-98, 2226 new members were enrolled in the NBT Book Club.

(v) The NBT participated in 21 book fairs and exhibitions in various parts of the country.

(vi) Besides, the NBT also organised many Pustak Parikarmas at various places all over the country through mobile exhibition vans.

(vii) The NBT Newsletter in English and in Hindi were brought out every month to disseminate information about new events in the book industry.

(viii) 2832 new Readers' Clubs were established through the National Centre for Children's Literature (NCCL) of the NBT through mail as well as direct efforts throughout the country.

(ix) 12 issues of the bilingual Readers' Club Bulletin containing interesting reading material, activities, book information and contributions by children were published during this period.

(x) In order to focus attention on children's literature, 8 meetings were held during the year, covering various subjects.

(xi) On the occasion of National Book Week, a children's book and activity fair was organised from 14 to 20 November, 1997 in New Delhi.

Setting up of Science City in Punjab

722. SHRI SUKHDEV SINGH LIBRA:
SARDAR GURCHARAN SINGH
TOHRA:

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

(a) the present status of the proposal to set up a Science City in Punjab; and

(b) the funds released by Government of India to Punjab in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI): (a) and (b) The Govt. of India, in collaboration with the Govt. of Punjab, has decided to set up a Science City at Jalandhar to be managed by a Society to be constituted by that Government.

The Government of India's financial commitment for this project will not exceed Rs. 70.00 crores which will be provided as an additionality to the Department of Culture over the remaining 4 years of the IX Five Year Plan. Out of this, an amount of Rs. 5.00 crores is proposed to be provided during this year.

The National Council of Science Museums, an autonomous organisation under the Department of Culture, will assist in setting up this Science City, on a turn key basis, for the Punjab Government.

The Punjab Government has set up a Society known as 'Council of Pushpa Gujaral Science City' under the Registration of Societies Act XXI of 1860 of amended by Punjab Amendment Act, 1951 for this purpose. Action has already been initiated for release of funds to this Society.