

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DEPTT. OF WOMAN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT) (SHRIMATI BASAVARAJESWARI): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. A National Plan of Action on Children has been adopted and covers programmes in the areas of child and maternal health, nutrition, water and sanitation, education, children in especially difficult circumstances, girl child, adolescent girls, children and the environment, advocacy and people's participation. The National Plan of Action has further been reinforced by adopting mid decade goals in the areas of basic education, health, child, labour, drinking water and sanitation. State Governments/Union Territories have also been asked to prepare Plan of Action on Children in respect of their States/ UTs on the basis of the National Plan of Action on children in respect of their States/UTs specifying the targets for 1995 as well as 2000 and work out the strategy by taking into account the regional disparities.

The National Plan of Action on Children has been internalised in the National Five Year Plan of different development sectors and the concerned Central Ministries/Departments/ State Governments and Union Territories have taken necessary steps to implement the National Plan of Action with a view to attain the goals set therein. With a view to achieve the goals set out in the National Plan of Action on children a number of initiatives have been made. In the health sector, the specific programmes under implementation are universal immunization programme, oral rehydration therapy, prophylaxis scheme and child survival and safe motherhood programme.

In the education sector, a strategy for universalisation of elementary education has been drawn up to promote better enrolment, retention and attainment of children in the primary schools with special emphasis on the girl child.

In the nutrition sector, concerted efforts towards reducing the level of malnutrition among vulnerable groups including children has been made through a host of direct nutritional interventions. These interalia include expansion of services under Integrated Child Development Scheme (ICDS) which provides a package of

health, immunization, supplementary feeding, non-formal and pre-school education and health and nutrition education services to children below 6 years and expectant and nursing mothers. The programme of adolescent girls in the age group of 11-18 years started in 1991-92 covers a whole range of intervention such as nutrition, health, health and nutrition education, recreation, and home based skills. In addition, the Government has adopted a National Nutrition Policy in 1993 which specifically contains a set of direct nutritional interventions and indirect policy instructions involving nutritional and structural changes aimed at improving the levels of nutrition with a special focus on young children.

To improve the condition of children in difficult circumstances, scheme has been introduced for the benefit of street children in 1992-93 in 11 major cities, national child labour projects started in 12 projects and penalties for violations of the Child Labour (Prohibition and Regulation Act 1986) have been made more stringent.

An Inter-ministerial monitoring committee has been set up which monitors at regular intervals, the action taken to implement the Plan of Action.

Financial Assistance for Voluntary Cultural Organisation

4307. SHRI AJITP.K. JOGI:

SHRI RAM GOPAL YADAV: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the number of proposals received from voluntary cultural organisations of Madhya Pradesh and Uttar Pradesh for financial assistance during each of the last three years;

(b) the number of proposals approved or are under consideration; and

(c) the amount sanctioned so far and the amount actually paid during the above period?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DEPTT. OF EDUCATION AND DEPTT. OF CULTURE) (KUMARI SELJA): (a) to (c) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.