

vices for Threshers" and "Code of Practice for Installation, Operation and Preventive Maintenance" of threshers. The work to develop more effective safety devices has been taken in hand at the research and testing institutions of the Union Government. The Central Standing Committee on Rural Un-organized Labour set up by the Ministry of Labour is considering possibility of a Central legislation to safeguard the interests of rural labour, covering, *inter-alia*, the aspect of safety in the handling of farm machinery including threshers.

Popularisation of Indian Culture Abroad

1117. SHRI SHRIKANT VERMA:

SHRI KISHAN LAL
SHARMA:

SHRI BUDDHA PRIYA
MAURYA:

Will the Minister of EDUCATION, SOCIAL WELFARE AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that there is a considerable interest abroad in Indian culture; and

(b) if so, what are the steps taken by Government to popularise the Indian culture abroad?

THE MINISTER OF EDUCATION, SOCIAL WELFARE AND CULTURE (DR. PRATAP CHANDRA CHUNDER): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Under Cultural Exchange Programmes entered into with various Governments in terms of Cultural Agreements, and under other *ad hoc* arrangements, the Government of India exchange performing troupes as well as eminent men in the field of art and culture, films, books and art exhibitions, chairs for study of Indian languages art & culture to promote

popularisation of Indian culture abroad.

In addition the Indian Council for Cultural Relations has also established a few Indian Cultural Centres abroad which propagate Indian literature, art and culture in various ways.

Setting up of 'Holiday Homes'

1118. SHRI F. M. KHAN: Will the Minister of WORKS AND HOUSING AND SUPPLY AND REHABILITATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Central Government employees when they go to the hill stations and particularly in the Southern States experience great difficulties regarding accommodation;

(b) what is the number of 'holiday homes' at present State-wise; and

(c) whether Government propose to set up more 'Holiday Homes' in each State?

THE MINISTER OF WORKS AND HOUSING AND SUPPLY AND REHABILITATION (SHRI SIKANDAR BAKHT): (a) No such representations have been received from the Central Government Employees in Ministry of Works and Housing. However, it is a fact that during busy season most of the popular hill stations are over crowded.

(b) and (c) A statement showing the state-wise number of 'Holiday Homes' set up/proposed to be set up by the Ministries of Railways, Works and Housing and the P. & T. Board, is enclosed.