

(a) whether it is a fact that Government had sponsored a choir of Indian Music from New Delhi to represent India at the third International Choral Music Festival held in April, 1972 in U.S.A. under the auspices of the Lincoln Centre for the Performing Arts, New York;

(b) if so, the particulars of the Choir and the criteria for its selection to represent India in Festival;

(c) whether Government have received any report on the standard of its performance there; and if so, the details thereof; and

(d) whether with a view to promoting cultural contacts with foreign countries Government intend to encourage similar tours abroad by this Choir; and if so, which are the foreign countries that Government have in view; and what are the details of the scheme?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF EDUCATION AND SOCIAL WELFARE AND IN THE DEPARTMENT OF CULTURE (SHRI D. P. YADAV) : (a) and (b) Government did not select or sponsor any choir of Indian music. The Gandharva Mahavidyalaya, New Delhi accepted an invitation from the Lincoln Centre of Performing Arts, New York and participated in the Third International Choral Music Festival held in New York in April-May, 1972, by sending their choir group. On application, the Mahavidyalaya was given a partial Travel Subsidy for 28 members of their 29-member group.

(c) The tour, it has been reported, was a success and the choir's performances were very well received.

(d) There is no such proposal at present.

DROUGHT AFFECTED AREAS

157. SHRIMATI PRATIBHA SINGH :
SHRIMATI SAVITA BEHEN :
SHRI GANESH LAL MALI :
SHRIMATI LAKSHMI KUMARI
CMUNDAWAT: SHRI SURAJ
PRASAD : SHRI BHOLA PRASAD :
SHRI YOGENDRA SHARMA :
SHRI SUNDAR MANI PATEL:
SHRI SITARAM KESRI : SHRI
SANDA NARAYANAPPA : SHRI
RAM SAHAI : SHRI KOTTA
PUNNAIAH : SHRI K. L.
N.PRASAD : SHRI THILLAI VII
LALAN : SHRI V. K. SAKHLECHA
: SHRI MONORANJAN ROY : SHRI
GOLAP BARBORA : SHRI
SITARAM SINGH ; SHRI SANAT
KUMAR RAHA :

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Prime Minister visited the drought affected areas of Bihar, Orissa and Andhra Pradesh in September, last;

(b) if so, what were her observations about the conditions prevailing there;

(c) what were the demands for aid made by the local people and State Governments during her visit and steps taken and assistance rendered by the Centre in response thereto; and

(d) which are the other States affected by drought and the details of loss and damage caused thereby and the assistance rendered to them?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI ANNASAHAB SHINDE) : (a) and (b) The Prime Minister visited some of the drought affected areas of Bihar, Orissa and Andhra Pradesh in September, 1972. She was distressed at the sufferings of the people.

(c) A number of Memoranda containing varied requests were presented to the Prime Minister. These memoranda were forwarded either to State Government or

other authorities concerned for necessary action. The Central Teams for making on the spot assessment of the financial assistance required by these States, have visited Bihar, Orissa and Andhra Pradesh and on their recommendations, the following ceilings of expenditure for natural calamities have been adopted :

Andhra Pradesh : Rs. 28 crores

Bihar : Rs. 3.45 „

Orissa : Rs. 14.65 „

(d) The other States affected by drought are Gujarat, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Mysore, Nagaland, Rajasthan, Uttar Pradesh, West Bengal, Tripura, Manipur and Tamil Nadu. Firm estimates of losses caused are not yet available.

The Central teams have visited these States, except Madhya Pradesh and Manipur and the following ceilings of expenditure for Central assistance have been adopted :

	(Rs. in crores)
Gujarat :	6.90
Maharashtra :	20.09
Mysore :	7.75
Nagaland :	0.08
Rajasthan :	2.19
(June-July, 1972)	
Uttar Pradesh :	10.10
West Bengal :	7.07*
Tripura :	0.88
Tamil Nadu :	1.50

*The estimates and ceilings also include the requirements for flood and cyclone relief measures.

LOCAL RECRUITMENT POLICY IN F.C.I. WEST BENGAL

158. SHRI K. B. CHETTRI : SARDAR
AMJAD ALI : DR. R. K.
CHAKRABARTI :

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Chairman of the F.C.I. had any talks with Commerce and Industries

Minister of West Bengal regarding the policy of local recruitment in the F.C.I. unit in that State;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) whether in view of the acute unemployment situation in the State, Government of India are issuing directions to the F.C.I. authorities to adopt local recruitment policy in the above unit as far as possible?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE
MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI
ANNASAHEB SHINDE) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) No directions as such has been issued by the Government of India. However, the Food Corporation of India gives preference to local people in recruitment to various posts in the Corporation which are more or less equivalent to non-gazetted posts under Government of India.

CONSTRUCTION OF BUILDING BY THE ALL INDIA FINE ARTS AND CRAFTS SOCIETY

159. SHRI SUHRID MULLICK
CHOWDHARY : SHRI
SASANKASEKHAR SAN-
YAL : SHRI SALIL KUMAR
GAN-GULI :

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

(a) whether it is a fact that the All India Fine Arts and Crafts Society formed for the purposes of promoting arts and crafts on an all India basis, constructed its permanent building with Government money but rented out a major portion of the building to the British Council and the Co-operative League of U.S.A., instead of using for the purpose for which it was built;

(b) if so, what action Government propose to take in the matter; and

(c) whether Government would continue to give grants-in-aid to this society ?