

by way of intensification of health education and publicity measures, adequate quantities of necessary education materials have been supplied to local authorities.

(vii) In order to keep the knowledge of Health Officers up-to-date in respect of various components of smallpox eradication programme, a training course was organised from 6th to 8th October, 1971 in which Health Officers of Delhi Municipal Corporation participated.

(viii) Under the National Smallpox Eradication Programme, a Centrally sponsored scheme with 100% Central Assistance, a sum of Rs. 2.13 lakhs has been provided for the operational cost of the programme during 1972-73. Vaccines are supplied free of cost. During 1971 72, 2,557 lakhs doses of vaccines were supplied in Delhi.

#### THEFT OF IDOLS

889. SHRIMATI SAVITA BEHEN : Will the Minister of EDUCATION AND SOCIAL WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) the total number of idols stolen from temples and other places in the country during the last three years, year-wise;

(b) the total number of such idols as referred to in part (a) above since recovered; and

(c) whether it is a fact that some of the idols have been smuggled out of the country and if so, the total number of such idols and the steps taken to bring them back ?

THE MINISTER OF EDUCATION, SOCIAL WELFARE AND CULTURE (PROF. S. NURUL HASAN): (a) 601, 675 and 906 pieces of sculpture are reported to have been stolen during the years 1969, 1970 and 1971 respectively.

(b) 119, 131 and 165 idols have since been recovered.

(c) so far there is no information to show that any of idols involved in the cases of the past three years have been smuggled out of the country.

#### †FERTILIZER PROMOTION SCHEME

502. SHRI M. S. OBEROI : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have worked out a fertilizer promotion scheme involving an expenditure of Rs. 3.00 crores to increase the use of nutrients by farmers in the country;

(b) if so, the main features of the scheme; and

(c) the steps taken to implement it in rural areas ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI ANNASAHEB SHINDE) : (a) A scheme at a cost of Rs 3 00 crores for promotion of balanced use of fertilizers has been drawn up by the Ministry of Agriculture and it is under consideration of Government.

(b) The broad features of the scheme are as under :—

(1) Massive demonstration programme in 70 selected districts on a package approach in collaboration with the other demonstration programmes in respect of cereals and specific commodities like cotton, oilseeds, jute, sugarcane etc.

(2) Training of V. L. Ws. retail dealers including cooperative salesmen, Extension staff and others concerned with proper fertilizer use and management, so that they can assist of the farmers on the efficient use of fertilizers;

†Transferred from the 22nd May, 1972.