

have been credited with postulating certain fundamental principles of Astronomy including the helio-centric concept of rotation of Earth around the Sun, prediction of lunar and solar eclipse, concept of gravitational force and mathematics of planetary motion.

These principles are fundamental in nature and form an important step in the advancement of Astronomy and contribute to our understanding of the Modern Astronomy and the methods of Celestial Mechanics that are used in the Space Programme.

Government of India is conscious of the significant contributions of the Indian Astronomers. It is for this reason that the first Indian Scientific Satellite, launched in 1975, was named after Aryabhata. The second Indian built satellite for Earth observation, launched in 1979 was named as Bhaskara-1 and the next Indian Earth observation satellite was named as Bhaskara-2. The observatory at Nainital was named by the Government in 2004 as Aryabhata Research Institute of Observational Sciences, an autonomous institution under the Department of Science and Technology. It is also noteworthy that the International Astronomical Union has named a crater on the Moon as Aryabhata.

(d) Not applicable.

Adoption of children

†209. SHRI T.M. SELVAGANAPATHI: Will the Minister of WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government is considering to make online access for smart adoption of children;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is also a fact that Government is considering to make central data-base for child adoption; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI KRISHNA TIRATH): (a) to (d) Government of India, in the Ministry of Women and Child Development, has recently launched a web based management system for adoption of children, namely, Central Adoption Resource Information and Guidance System (CARINGS), which can be

accessed on Central Adoption Resource Agency's website www.adoptionindia.nic.in. CARINGS envisages expeditious and smooth adoption and transparency through online monitoring of adoption and post adoption process. It also provides online registration and status tracking for parents and facility to view and accept the prospective adoptive child online.

CARINGS contains, *inter alia*, (i) details of recognized adoption agencies, (ii) database of parents waiting to adopt, (iii) database of children available for adoption with detailed information relating to their health, education, development milestones, etc. This enables the adoption authorities/agencies to expedite matching of children with waiting parents, thereby leading to early rehabilitation of the children.

Non-sponsoring of Basketball Team to Asian Para Games

*210. SHRI RAMA CHANDRA KHUNTIA: Will the Minister of YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government had decided not to sponsor Indian Wheelchair Basketball Team to Asian Para Games at Guangzhou, China in December, 2010;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the procedure for sponsoring various teams for Asian Para Games and Paralympics?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS (SHRI AJAY MAKEN): (a) and (b): No, Sir. The Paralympic Committee of India (PCI) did not submit any proposal for sending Indian Wheelchair Basketball team to participate in Para Asian Games held in Guangzhou, China in December, 2010. However, Indian Wheelchair Basketball team did not qualify for the Games as per the Minimum Qualification Standard (MQS) fixed by Asian Paralympic Committee. The Indian team had last participated in the 9th FESPIC (Far East and South Pacific Games for the Disabled) Games in 2006 where they ranked last out of total 8 teams. Thereafter the team did not participate in any International event as their performance was not satisfactory. Hence the Indian Wheelchair Basketball team could not be sent to participate in Para Asian Games, 2010.

(c) PCI is required to submit detailed proposal to the Ministry for sending teams for participation in Para Asian Games and Paralympics. Ministry's Departmental Committee considers