

Building for North Eastern Cultural and Information Centre in Delhi

168. SHRI SAMBHAJI CHHATRAPATI: Will the Minister of DEVELOPMENT OF NORTH EASTERN REGION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government had taken a decision to construct a building in Delhi to establish North Eastern Cultural and Information Centre for which land had been allotted;

(b) if so, the current status of construction of the building and what is estimated date for its completion; and

(c) what would be the proposed activities of the Centre and how far it would help the people of North Eastern Region residing in Delhi?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEVELOPMENT OF NORTH EASTERN REGION (DR. JITENDRA SINGH): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. A plot of land measuring 5341.75 sqm. (1.32 acres) has been acquired from DDA for the purpose. The CPWD have been entrusted to take up architectural consultancy and construction of the building. North Eastern Council (NEC) have allocated fund for starting construction work.

(c) The proposed activities of the Centre include showcasing of history, culture, rich heritage, festivals and cuisine of the eight States in the North East; establishing facilities for promotion of tourism; and to create Common Facility Centre, library, Knowledge and Resource Centre in the National Capital.

This Centre would facilitate dissemination of knowledge about the rich cultural heritage of the North East.

Development of service sector in the North Eastern Region

169. SHRI SAMBHAJI CHHATRAPATI: Will the Minister of DEVELOPMENT OF NORTH EASTERN REGION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that certain focus areas including service sector development had been identified in Twelfth Business Summit for implementation in North-Eastern Region;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) what initiative Government has taken towards the development of service

sector in the region which was likely to generate employment opportunity for local people?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEVELOPMENT OF NORTH EASTERN REGION (DR. JITENDRA SINGH): (a) and (b) This Ministry is aware that a Business Summit was organised by an industry body, Indian Chamber of Commerce (ICC) in which potential of service sector like health care & tourism was discussed.

(c) North Eastern Council has supported a number of projects for the development of tourism in various States in the North East.

Role of officials of Indian embassies

170. DR. V. MAITREYAN: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Indian embassies, consulates and high commissions in various countries are sensitised and made ready to provide adequate protection and troubleshooting acts for the Indians living abroad;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the role of officials of Indian embassies;

(c) whether Government has appointed adequate numbers of attache for various ministerial jobs abroad; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and the details of officers who got appointed in various countries during the last three years and their area of specialisation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS [GEN. (RETD.) V. K. SINGH]: (a) and (b) The Government has accorded the highest priority to the safety and well-being of Indian nationals abroad. Indian Missions and Posts are proactively working towards safeguarding the interests of Indian nationals and stand ready to assist them in situations of distress and contingency. Missions and Posts have been duly sensitized to provide emergency contact numbers. The Indian Community Welfare Fund, MADAD portal, e-Migrate system, help-lines, Indian Worker Resource Centres, shelter homes are some of the important mechanisms to expeditiously assist Indian nationals abroad. Missions in Gulf countries and Malaysia also conduct Open Houses on a regular basis to address grievances of the Indian community.

(c) and (d) Officials are posted to Missions and Posts abroad as per sanctioned strength and functional requirements. These also include Section Officer level officials