

[24 April, 2003]

RAJYA SABHA

officials were detained and later released. Both officials have been suspended by the Ministry. Five other persons were also detained in the case.

Cultural Centres

3634. SHRI ABU ASIM AZMI: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of proposals received for setting up of the cultural centres from the Indian Missions and Posts abroad and how many of those have been accepted;

(b) the number of the cultural centres set up during the last two years;

(c) whether the cultural centres in Washington has started functioning; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH): (a) 27 proposals for the setting up of new cultural centres have been received. These centres will be opened depending upon an assessment of their importance and the availability of funds. Presently, proposals for centres in Washington D.C. (USA), Suva (Fiji) and Kuala Lumpur (Malaysia) are under consideration.

(b) One centre has been established at Dushanbe (Tajikistan) in December 2002 with the deputation of two teachers.

(c) No.

(d) An appropriate property for the centre is presently being identified for the purpose. Administrative and financial approvals are also being processed.

Projects in Bhutan funded by India

3635. SHRI ABU ASIM AZMI: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the mega projects in Bhutan which are being funded by Government along with the expenditure incurred on each project; and