

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (PROF. M. G. K. MENON): (a) No art objects have been found missing/stolen from the National Museum, Delhi during 1987, 1988 and 1989.

(b) and (c) Does not arise.

(d) Yes, Sir. Security devices have been installed in all the Galleries housing art objects besides security of armed Guards round the Clock.

(e) Yes, Sir.

Denotification of Reserved Forest in Orissa

72. SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Orissa Government have denotified a reserved forest in the entire Konark west block and the wild life sanctuary to favour certain hoteliers to set-up five star hotels in violation of the Conservation of Forest Act, 1980 and the Wild Life Protection Act of 1972 and without taking prior approval of the Central Government;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof stating the total area of the reserved forest denotified by the Orissa Government and the likely impact on the wildlife as a consequence of withdrawal of the sanctuary status of the area involved; and

(c) what is Government's reaction regarding environmental degradation in violation of the Act?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRIMATI MANEKA GANDHI): (a) to (c) The details are being collected from the State Government and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Import of Sugar through a NRI Company

73. SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA: Will the Minister of FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government propose to import sugar;

(b) if so, what is the quantity, with value of sugar proposed to be imported and the manner in which sugar imports have been contracted;

(c) whether imports of sugar have been arranged/are being arranged through a NRI owned company which is unknown in the sugar trade; and

(d) if so, what is the total quantity with value of sugar proposed to be imported through the said NRI company and what are the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES (SHRI NATHU RAM MIRDHA): (a) to (d) Import of sugar, if any, is decided taking into account the carry over stock, production during the season and the demand for internal consumption. The Government has recently imported 2.42 lakh tonnes of sugar during 1989, at CIF value of US \$ 12.57 crores. To bridge the gap in availability and demand for internal consumption, above imports of sugar were arranged by floating tenders. All the six parties with whom above quantity of 2.42 lakh tonnes of sugar was imported, are registered with State Trading Corporation of India as suppliers of sugar.

Reduction and By-Passing of the Recommendations of the U.P.S.C.

74. SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) what were the objectives in the setting up of the Union Public Service Commission in the Country;

(b) whether, of late, the cases of rejection/by-passing of the recommendations made by the U.P.S.C. have been on the increase;