

(b) what are the main features of those reports; and

(c) what action has been taken on those reports?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA): (a) During the year 1987-88, 17 Reports were submitted by the Commissioners of Railway Safety.

(b) The main features of these reports are the cause/causes of accidents and recommendations for preventing their recurrences.

(c) Necessary action is taken on these reports such as:—

(i) Installation of Auxiliary Warning System.

(2) Maintaining the increased pace of renewal of track and rolling stock.

(3) Greater emphasis on inspections.

(4) Better attention to rolling stock maintenance in Workshops.

(5) Increased pace of Panel Interlocking, axle counters and track circuiting.

(6) Interlocking of Level Crossing Gates.

Principals and Lecturers in Delhi University above sixty years

3992. SHRI RAJNI RANJAN SAHU: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Lecturers and Principals in Delhi University who have crossed the age of sixty years still continue to be in service; if so, what are the reasons therefor;

(b) what are the names of the colleges whose Principals and Lecturers have crossed the age of sixty but are still continuing in service; and

(c) what steps Government propose to take to appoint younger persons at such positions?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF EDUCATION AND CULTURE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI L. P. SHAHI): (a) to (c) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Theft of antiques in Delhi

3993. SHRI NARESH C. PUGLIA: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) what is the number of incidents of thefts of antiques which took place recently in Delhi;

(b) what is the estimated value of these antiques; and

(c) what measures are taken by Government in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF EDUCATION AND CULTURE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI L. P. SHAHI): (a) As per report received from the National Crime Records Bureau and Police authorities, 4 incidents of thefts of antique objects took place recently in Delhi.

(b) The objects have not been evaluated so far.

(c) The Government of India has taken following measures to prevent thefts and smuggling of antiquities:

1. Enforcement of Antiquities and Art Treasures Act, 1972, which *inter-alia* provides for the following:

(i) Compulsory registration of certain categories of antiquities (sculptures in all media, paintings and illustrated and illuminated manuscripts) with the Registering Officers;

(ii) Registering Officers to be informed regarding movement of such registered antiquities;

(iii) Dealing in antiquities to be restricted to licensed dealers;

(iv) Restriction on export of antiquities.

2. In addition, Armed Guards have been posted in some of the important centrally protected monuments and museums under the control of Archaeological Survey of India, besides tightening watch and ward arrangements and appointment of Security Officers in some Circle Headquarters. Sculpture-sheds to house the loose sculptures safely and new site museums to display the antiquities at the site itself have been constructed.

3. In the year 1977, India has ratified the Unesco Convention on the Means of Prohibiting Illicit Import, Export and Transfer of Cultural Properties. The Convention *inter-alia* provides that the contracting parties would take steps for preventing illicit import into their territories, of stolen cultural properties to the countries concerned. The rights of the contracting parties under the Convention are, however, prospective to the signing of the Convention and not retrospective.

4. An Antique Cell has been opened in Central Bureau of Investigation for investigation into cases of thefts and loss of antiquities.

5. Steps have already been initiated for documentation of loose sculptures, paintings, illustrated manuscripts etc.

6. Archeological Survey of India has posted its officers at important international sea-ports and air-ports in India to help the customs authorities in preventing illegal export of antiquities by identifying objects which are antiquities. Further, Expert Advisory Committees have been set up in important towns in India to examine the objects meant for export in order to find if any of the objects is an antiquity in terms of the Antiquities and Art Treasures Act, 1972.

Shortfall in shipping targets of seventh Five Year Plan

3994. DR. BAPU KALDATE: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that in the Seventh Five Year Plan the total shipping plan was targeted to increase to 7.5 m. GRT;

(b) whether it is also a fact that in the first three years of the Seventh Five Year Plan period the tonnage has actually gone down from what it was at the end of the Sixth Five Year Plan;

(c) if so, what action Government propose to take to improve the condition of the industry;

(d) whether it is also a fact that as a result of this, many shipping companies are facing extinction; and

(e) if so, in what manner, Government propose to tackle the situation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI RAJESH PILOT): (a) and (b) Yes Sir.

(c) to (e) The recent measures taken by the Government to revive shipping industry include providing financial assistance to viable shipping companies through financial rehabilitation packages, helping shipping companies in getting increased share of Indian cargo, simplifying procedures for acquisition and scrapping of vessels, encouraging acquisition of specialised, modern fuel-efficient vessels etc. These measures would help potentially viable shipping companies to overcome the adverse effects of the long global recession and lead to the creation of a stronger and financially viable shipping industry.

Purchase of two boeing 747s by IA

3995. SHRI SURESH PACHOURI: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that purchase of two boeing 747s for Indian Airlines