

of Antiques from Protected Monuments

868. SHRI PARVATHANENI UPENDRA: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of incidents of thefts of antiques from old and protected monuments in the country during 1984-85 and 1985-86 respectively;

(b) the estimated value of the antiques in the international market; and

(c) the measures taken by Government to protect effectively the cultural heritage of India by preventing the theft of antiques and their smuggling out of the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF EDUCATION AND CULTURE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI KRISHNA SAHI): (a) and (b) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

(c) The Government of India has taken the following measures to prevent thefts in the Centrally protected monuments and their smuggling out of the country:

1. Armed Guards have been posted in fifteen centrally protected monuments and museums administered by the Archaeological Survey of India, in addition to strengthening of watch and ward arrangements in other monuments/sites.

2. Construction of twenty five sculpture-sheds at important sites to house loose and uncared for sculptures, their documentation and establishment of Archaeological site museums.

3. Promulgation of the Antiquities and Art Treasures Act, 1972 to regulate the export trade in antiquities and art treasures; to provide for the prevention of smuggl-

ing and fraudulent dealing in antiquities; to provide for the compulsory acquisition of antiquities and art treasures for preservation at public places.

4. Creation in 1974 of a Central Investigation Unit (Antiques) in the Central Bureau of Investigation located at elhi to investigate cases concerning theft of antiquities.

5. Maintenance of a computerised data bank of cases of theft and recoveries of certain important cultural properties (sculptures, idols and paintings) containing information about crimes, criminals, and cultural property in the C.B.I.

6. Coordination between the Central Bureau of Investigation, the Archaeological Survey of India, State Police, Customs and Check-posts for prompt reporting of crimes, criminals, thefts concerning cultural property and smuggling of objects.

7. Assistance of Interpol is also sought where necessary for investigation of such cases.

Movement of Foodgrains by Railways

869. SHRI PARVATHANENI UPENDRA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the target fixed by railways for the movement of foodgrains during 1986-87;

(b) whether this target is likely to be fulfilled; and

(c) whether the supply of foodgrains to all parts of the country has been according to schedule and there have been no bottlenecks?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA):

(a) 22.00 million tonnes.

(b) The target has already been surpassed as 23.10 million tonnes of foodgrains have been loaded during the period April '86 to January, '87.