

THE MINISTER OF EDUCATION, SOCIAL WELFARE AND CULTURE (DR. PRATAP CHANDRA CHUN-DER): (a) to (c) A statement is laid on the Table of the Sabha.

Statement

Theft of rare paintings from Indian. Museums

(a) and (b) As far as the Central Museums are concerned, 102 miniature paintings were reported stolen from the Government Museum and Art Gallery, Chandigarh in 1970. One painting was retrieved through the Interpol, Division of C.B.I, on 10-10-1978.

(c) The Antiquities and Art Treasures Act, 1972 regulates the export trade in antiquities and provides for the prevention of smuggling, fraudulent dealings in antiquities and for their compulsory acquisition. A number of measures have been taken to prevent thefts. Some of these are: Security measures of museums, important temples and places of archaeological interests; special cells to ensure prompt and regular dissemination of information relating to thefts of antiquities to ensure special look outs at Customs check posts to prevent smuggling of antiquities.

An International Convention on the means of prohibiting and preventing illicit import, export and transfer of ownership of cultural property;' as adopted by the XVIth General Conference of UNESCO in November, 1970 had been ratified.

Site for the project to manufacture Electro-Mechanical common control telephone equipment

1866. SHRI VIREN J. SHAH: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state;

(a) what are the recommendations of the committee set up to recommend a suitable site for the project to manufacture electro-mechanical common control telephone equipment;

(b) whether the Maharashtra Government approached the Central Government to set up the above project in the Marathwada region; and

(c) if so, what are the details there of?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI NARHARI PRASAD SUKHDEO SAI): (a) The Committee recommended consideration of the following sites as suitable for setting up of Electro-Mechanical common control telephone switching factories:—

- (1) Punchkula
- (2) Bhopal (Mandi Deep)
- (3) Bhubaneswar
- (4) Sangli—Miraj.

Later, a Team consisting of two Members of the main Site Selection Committee was appointed to recommend a site in Madhya Pradesh other than Bhopal (Mandi Deep). The Team recommended Kalod near Indore for consideration.

(b) and (c) The Maharashtra Government had first suggested setting up of factory in Sangli/Kolhapur area which was considered to be ideally suitable. Later on the State Government suggested two sites namely Aurangabad and Jalna in Marathwada area for locating this unit. The State Government had offered to make available adequate land and other facilities.

Delay in delivery of dak

1867. SHRI KHURSHED ALAM KHAN: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the dak is abnormally delayed in reaching the destinations;

(b) whether it is also a fact that previously it used to take one day only to reach Madras, Bangalore, Calcutta etc., now the time taken is 48 to 72 hours; and

(c) what are the reasons therefor and what steps Government propose to take to tune up the working of the postal department in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI NARHARI PRASAD SUKHDEO SAI): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) The Postal Department is utilising all the available flights for conveyance of mails for Madras, Bangalore and Calcutta etc. If the letters are posted in a metropolitan city in time for the connecting flights these are delivered on the next day in the metropolitan city of destination. The Night Air Service which operated till 1973 was more advantageous than the existing evening flights.

The postal departmental carries out a continuous monitoring to improve the transmission of mails.

Contractors for cleaning cobwebs on telegraph and telephone wires and poles

1-868. SHRI PRANAB CHATTERJEE: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Department of Posts and Telegraphs engage contractors for cleaning cobwebs on telegraph and telephone wires and poles;

(b) if so, what is the amount spent in cleaning these cobwebs under each Post and Telegraph Circle during the years 1977-78 and 1978-79; and

(c) what are the names of the contractors?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI NARHARI PRASAD SUKHDEO SAI): (a) No. Sir.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Retirement age of officers in I.T.I

1869. SHRI JAGJIT SINGH ANAND: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) what is the age of retirement of officers in the Indian Telephone Industries Ltd. both in the case of indirectly recruited or those taken on deputation and later on absorbed permanently;

(b) whether it is a fact that these officers are being given extension of service beyond the retiring age of 58 either by re-employment or otherwise; if so, what are the reasons therefor;

(c) whether it is also a fact that this tendency blocks the chances of promotion of junior officers; and

(d) if so, what action Government propose to take to stop this practice?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI NARHARI PRASAD SUKHDEO SAI): (a) The normal age of retirement of all officers in the Indian Telephone Industries Ltd., including those taken on deputation and later on absorbed permanently in services of the Company, is 58 years.

(b) Extension of service beyond the age of 58 is given in a few cases where such extension is absolutely in the interest of the Company and where suitable replacements are not immediately available within the Company.

(c) As extensions beyond 58 years are given only where immediate replacements are not available within the company, such extensions do not generally block the chances of promotion of junior officers.

(d) Does not arise.

Advance of loans by World Bank for irrigation projects

1870. SHRI PRANAB CHATTERJEE: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND IRRIGATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the World Bank had advanced loans for various projects under his Ministry;

(b) if so, what was the total amount of loan advanced during the last three years;

(c) what are the projects for which loans have been advanced and how much interest is payable for each of these projects; and

(d) what are the different stages of these projects as on 31st December, 1978?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND IRRIGATION (SHRI SURJIT SINGH BARNALA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) A total credit of 1265.5 mill-ion has been agreed to by the World.

Bank for 24 agricultural projects during the last three years (1976—78).

(c) and (d). A statement giving the desired information is enclosed.

There are three projects which are financed by the World Bank and the interest payable on these projects is of the following order:—

Project	Rate of interest	Period of payment of loan
(i) National Seeds I	8.5%	20 years
(ii) Andhra Pradesh Irrigation	4.5%	25 years
(iii) Gujarat Fisheries	4.5%	20 years

All the other projects mentioned in the attached statement are financed by IDA (International Development Association) Credits. These credits carry no interest except a service charge of 0.7 per annum. These loans are repayable over a period of 50 years including grace period of 10 years.

Statement

(A) On-going Projects assisted by World Bank Group during the last 3 years which have reported disbursement of credit as on 31-12-1978

(U.S. \$ in millions)

Project	Effective date	Closing date	Bank/IDA Credit	Actual disbursement as on 31-12-78
1	2	3	4	5
I. Department of Agriculture				
1. Madhya Pradesh Forestry	May, 76	Dec. 81	4.0	0.1
2. National Seeds I	Oct. 76	June, 81	25.0	0.1
3. Integrated Cotton Development	Nov. 76	Dec. 81	18.0	0.4
4. Karala Agriculture Development Project	Feb. 77	Mar. 85	30.0	0.1
5. Orissa Agriculture Development Project	June, 77	Dec. 83	20.0	0.7
6. Assam Extension	Sept. 77	Mar., 83	8.0	0.2
TOTAL :			105.0	2.3