

THE MINISTER OF WORKS AND HOUSING AND SUPPLY AND REHABILITATION (SHRI SIKANDAR BAKHT): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

**Sale of potatoes and sugarcane in U.P.**

•417. SHRI SHIVDAYAL SINGH  
CHAURASIA:  
SHRI KHURSHED ALAM  
KHAN:  
SHRI JAGDISH JOSHI;

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND IRRIGATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there is distress sale of potatoes and sugarcane in some of the districts of Uttar Pradesh during the current season;

(b) whether it is also a fact that this situation is created due to the high cost of transport;

(c) what is the progress made in the establishment of a potato starch factory in Farrukhabad; and

(d) what steps Government have taken or propose to take to save the agriculturists from this situation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND IRRIGATION (SHRI BHANU PRA-, TAP SINGH): (a) No specific report of distress sale of sugarcane in some of the districts of Uttar Pradesh has been reported during the current season. As regards potatoes, in some U.P. markets it is being sold at a very low price.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Proposals for setting up potato processing factories are under consideration of the U.P. Government.

(d) For the current season 1978-79, Government have raised the statutory minimum price payable by sugar factories for sugarcane from Rs. 8.50 to Rs. 10 per quintal linked to a

recovery of 8.5 per cent. The Government of U.P. have fixed minimum price of Rs. 6 per quintal payable by khandsari units in the State during the current season. Export of potatoes is freely allowed. Transport facilities are being provided to the extent, other pressing needs permit.

**Development of plots for allotment to public**

•418. SHRI SITARAM KESRI: Will the Minister of WORKS AND HOUSING AND SUPPLY AND REHABILITATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government propose to develop plots of land in different sizes for allotment by lots to public in the Union Territory of Delhi; and

(b) if so, what is the number of plots which are proposed to be so developed, the period by when these plots are expected to be ready for allotment and the areas where these plots are to be developed?

THE MINISTER OF WORKS AND HOUSING AND SUPPLY AND REHABILITATION (SHRI SIKANDAR BAKHT): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Over 30,000 plots of different sizes are proposed to be developed every year in Delhi. They will be allotted to the public by draw of lots and otherwise. It is not possible to indicate any time limit by which plots will be ready for allotment.

**Ban on the registration of new group housing societies in Delhi**

•419. SHRI V. VENKA:  
SHRI M. KADERSHAH:

Will the Minister of WORKS AND HOUSING AND SUPPLY AND REHABILITATION be pleased to state:

(a) under what provisions of law Government have banned the registration of new group housing societies in Delhi from 1973;

(b) whether it is a fact that the ban is a deterrent factor in floating new group housing societies;

(c) whether it is not a fact that this ban is against the concept of group housing movement in Delhi in the overall context of the role of the cooperative sector in the national reconstruction programme; and

(d) whether Government propose to lift the ban on the registration of new cooperative group housing societies?

THE MINISTER OF WORKS AND HOUSING AND SUPPLY AND REHABILITATION (SHRI SIKAN-DAR BAKHT): (a) Under Section 9 of the Delhi Co-operative Societies Act, 1972, the Registrar of Co-operative Societies is competent to refuse registration.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) Allowing registration of group housing societies, without any prospect of allotment of land in near future, would be more detrimental to the interests of Co-operative movement.

(d) Owing to the limited availability of allotable land in Delhi, the DDA is not in position to offer land for new societies. Hence the purpose of registering new societies will not be achieved.

#### Protection of the Cooch Behar Palace

\*420. SHRI JAHARLAL BANERJEE:  
SHRI PRASENJIT BARMAN:  
SHRIMATI PRATIMA BOSE:

Will the Minister of EDUCATION, SOCIAL WELFARE AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Central Government have taken any decision to protect the Cooch Behar Palace in West Bengal;

(b) if so, what steps have taken so far in this regard;

(c) whether any scheme for the utilisation of the Palace has also been drawn up; and

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

THE MINISTER OF EDUCATION, SOCIAL WELFARE AND CULTURE (DR. PRATAP CHANDRA CHUN-DER): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Steps are being taken for the collection and finalization of protection data required for issuing notification, declaring the Palace as a monument of national importance under the Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Sites and Remains Act, 1958.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

#### Theft of rare paintings from Indian Museums

\*420-A. SHRI KRISHNA CHANDRA PANT; Will the Minister of EDUCATION, SOCIAL WELFARE AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a good number of rare ancient paintings\*stolen from the Indian Museums are being sold or found in the European countries;

(b) whether one such painting from London has been received by the Chandigarh Museum through the Police Department very" recently; and

(c) if so, what steps Government are taking or propose to take to prevent the theft of Indian art treasures and to recover those already stolen?

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†Previously Starred Question 426 transferred from the 22nd March, 1979.

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: