

The applications/investigations on which decisions have not yet been taken are under scrutiny, by different Ministries from their respective angles. In some cases, Screening Committee consisting of representatives of different Ministries concerned have been formed to jointly examine the proposals.

#### **Controlled cloth scheme**

629. SHRI SITARAM KESRI:  
SHRI BHISHMA NARAIN  
SINGH:  
SHRI KALP NATH RAI:

Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to a statement reported to have been made recently by the Chairman of the Indian Cotton Mills Federation urging Government to scrap the controlled cloth scheme; and

(b) if so, what action Government have taken in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (KUMARI ABHA MAITI): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Controlled cloth scheme has not been scrapped.

#### **Visit of the Union Minister of State for Home Affairs to Chikmagalur**

630. SHRI SITARAM KESRI: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Union Minister of State for Home Affairs went to Chikmagalur to oversee law and order situation there as reported in the Indian Express of the 20th October, 1978; and

(b) if so, what were the considerations that prompted him to visit Chikmagalur particularly when maintenance of law and order is the responsibility of the State Governments?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI S. D. PATIL): (a) and (b) The report in the Indian Express of 20th October, 1978, incorrectly reported that Shri Dhanik Lal Mandal, Minister of State in the Ministry of Home Affairs had visited Chikmagalur. Shri S. D. Patil, Minister of State in the Ministry of Home Affairs visited Chikmagalur on 19th October, 1978 and this visit was private.

#### **Findings of the Netaji Inquiry Committee**

631. SHRI AMARPROSAD CHAKRABORTY: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Prime Minister has declared recently that the findings of both the Netaji Inquiry Committee, 1956, and the Netaji Inquiry Commission have been rejected by Government because the mysterious disappearance of Netaji is yet unresolved;

(b) whether Government propose to take any action against the writer, Shri G. D. Khosla, for publishing a book 'Last days of Netaji' on the basis of those findings before the same were accepted by Government; and

(c) if so, what are the details in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI DHANIK LAL MANDAL): (a) There have been two enquiries into the report of the death of Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose in the air-crash on 18th August 1945 at Taihoki airfield during his air-journey to Manchuria, one by a Committee presided over by Maj. General Shah Nawaz Khan and the second by a one man Commission of Inquiry headed by Shri G. D. Khosla, retired Judge of Punjab High Court. The majority report of the first Committee and Shri Khosla held the report of the death as true. Since then, reasonable doubts have been cast on

the correctness of the conclusions reached in the two reports and various important contradictions in the testimony of witnesses have been noticed. Some further contemporary official documentary records have also become available. In the light of those doubts and contradictions and those records, Government find it difficult to accept that the earlier conclusions are decisive.

(b) and (c) The report of the Netaji Commission headed by Justice Shri G. D. Khosla was placed on the Table of the House on 3rd September, 1974. The book 'Last Days of Netaji' was available for sale on 4th December, 1974. In the circumstances, no action would either be possible or necessary.

#### Netaji and the I.N.A. treasure

632. SHRI AMARPROSAD CHAKRABORTY: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to a news item which appeared in the 'Amrit Bazar Patrika' of the 25th October, 1978 regarding Netaji and the I.N.A. treasure;

(b) if so, what are the details in this regard;

(c) whether it is a fact that there were four suitcases containing the I.N.A. treasure;

(d) if so, who had brought the treasures and from whom and in how many boxes;

(e) whether any such box or suitcase is missing;

(f) what is the name of the person or authority under whose custody these boxes remained for such a long time; and

(g) whether the matter was placed before the Netaji Enquiry Committee in 1956 and the one-man Commission headed by Justice G. D. Khosla; if not, what are the reasons therefor?

THE PRIME MINISTER (SHRI MORARJI DESAI): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) A steel suitcase said to contain the treasure that was salvaged from the aircraft in which Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose was reported to have met his death is in the custody of National Museum. The box, which is placed in a diplomatic bag sealed by the Ministry of External Affairs was entrusted on the 30th December, 1953 to the National Museum, New Delhi for safe custody and has remained with them since then.

In order to verify the observations made in Chapter VI of the Shah Nawaz Khan Committee's report about the contents of the box, the Prime Minister had directed that the box be opened and the contents evaluated. Accordingly, the box was opened on the 9th October, 1978 in the presence of the following officers:

(1) Shri A. S. Gill, Additional Secretary, Deptt. of Culture.

(2) Shri M. N. Deshpande, Director General, Archaeological Survey of India.

(3) Shri C. Sivaramamurti, Former Director, National Museum.

(4) Dr. P. Banerjee, Assistant Director, National Museum.

(5) Shri I. D. Mathur, Keeper (L&E), National Museum.

(6) Dr. N. R. Banerjee, Director, National Museum.

Shri K. P. Balakrishnan, Director (Establishment) and Shri Atish Sinha, Under Secretary, of the Ministry of External Affairs, joined later and left before the contents were sealed again.

The box was found to contain seventeen packages, the contents of which were medals, rings, chains, wrist watches, ear-rings, pendants, ear-studs, brooches, bangles, frag-