

EXPORT OF ART TREASURES

64. SHRIMATI LAKSHMI KUMARI
CHUNDAWAT:
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ARIF.

Will the Minister of EDUCATION, SOCIAL WELFARE AND CULTURE be pleased to state the steps taken by Government to prevent despoiling of the country's art treasures and their export?

THE MINISTER OF EDUCATION, SOCIAL WELFARE AND CULTURE (PROF. S. NURUL HASAN): A statement regarding the steps taken by Government in this direction is enclosed.

STATEMENT

Steps taken by Government to prevent despoiling of the country's art treasures and their export

In order to prevent loss of such treasures of art, the following steps have been taken:—

(i) Export of all works of art has been restricted;

(ii) With a view to tightening up the control over the nefarious activities of unscrupulous art dealers, a comprehensive legislation on the subject "The antiquities and the art Treasure Act, 1972" has been passed by the Parliament. It seeks to regulate the trade in antiquities and prevent smuggling and fraudulent dealings pertaining to the precious cultural properties.

(iii) The Central Bureau of Investigation has commenced the maintenance of a central record of crimes, criminals and property involved in cases of this category. This work was started with effect from January, 1969.

(iv) The assistance of the Secretary-General, ICPO, Interpol, Paris has been sought to compile a list of all foreign dealers and collectors of art objects. This list, when completed will be issued to the Customs Authorities so that any consignment addressed to these persons and be-

ing smuggled out of the country may be checked and intercepted.

(v) The Crime Records Division of the CBI maintains Special records of stolen/lost and recovered works of art and the criminals involved in such cases. The information so gathered is disseminated among the law enforcement agencies in the country.

(vi) The CBI has been persistently drawing the attention of the State Police through circulars and during conferences etc. towards the menace and has been making suggestions to counteract this form of crime.

(vii) Greater cooperation is now being secured through the efforts made by the CBI among the Customs, Archaeological Survey of India, the State Police Departments and the CBI itself to prevent loss of such cultural property.

(viii) Security measures at the museums important temples and places of archaeological interest have also been tightened.

(ix) In view of the high incidence of thefts of antiques and art objects in the country, the State Governments have set up separate cells for detection of such cases. The State CIDs have set up a number of informants and a vigil is arranged near road transport offices, Railway goods-sheds, taxi-stands and also business places of antique dealers in various cities.

As a member of the International Criminal Police Organisation, India participated in the discussion held during the General Assembly Session 1971 on this subject. The following important decisions were taken:

(a) stepping up of international police cooperation;

(b) greater exchange of information about cases involving theft of idols and works of art;

(c) willingness of the police departments of the member countries to assist each other in the location, identification

and recovery of stolen idols for their restoration to the lawful owners.

(d) maintenance of an index of stolen works of art at the Interpol Headquarters and its circulation among the member countries;

(e) maintenance of a list of suspected art dealers and collectors by the police of member countries.

The CBI has been assisting the State Polices in working out a number of difficult and important cases. In some cases the investigations were carried out by the CBI itself and in some it provided expert guidance and advice.

The Ministry of Education have been doing their best within the means at their disposal to check this growing menace and for the preservation of the art of this country by taking various measures for protection and safeguarding ancient monuments and sites. These are naturally not enough in view of the limitations of staff etc. In spite of it they have been exhorting their staff in-charge of the monuments to be alert and exercise stricter vigilance and enforce supervision. The sculptures lying around the monuments are being collected and stored in a central place for better watch and ward. The State Governments have been addressed by the Ministry of Education requesting them to exercise greater vigilance and control over the State protected monuments. The Ministry of Education convened a meeting during 1971 of the State representatives to keep them informed of the arrangements that the Government of India has made regarding the protection of their monuments with a view to facilitating the State Governments being fully seized of the problem and also to seek their cooperation in the matter of preserving these monuments.

Specific Measures to Prevent Thefts at Centrally Protected Monuments

The following measures have been taken or are proposed to be taken to prevent thefts at centrally protected monuments and

sites and archaeological museums and to prevent illegal export of antiques :—

1. Watch and ward staff of centrally protected monuments has been strengthened. 1695 more posts of Monument Attendants have been sanctioned.

2. State Governments have been requested to provide police guards at selected museums and monuments under the Archaeological Survey of India.

3. Watch and ward staff of the Survey has also been warned to be more vigilant. Cases of thefts are being immediately reported to the police.

4. As soon as cases of thefts are detected, intimation is also sent to the Export Advisory Committees and Customs authorities at major ports to watch out for the stolen antiques being smuggled out of the country.

5. In order to have complete documentation of sculptures at centrally protected monuments a phased programme is being drawn up by the Survey of India. Documentation will facilitate the identification of stolen sculptures and will check smuggling of art objects. Necessary staff has been sanctioned for this purpose.

6. It is proposed to give in-service training to Customs staff for identify antiques, so that they may be able to detect where efforts are made to smuggle them out of India. Six posts of Deputy Superintending Archaeologist have been sanctioned on the strength of the Archaeological Survey of India for being posted at important air and sea ports to help custom authorities in checking smuggling of antiques to foreign countries.

9. In April, 1968, Minister in the Ministry of Home Affairs had written a letter to the Chief Ministers/Governors of various States and Union Territories regarding the steadily increasing spoliation and vandalism in regard to our ancient monuments and art treasures by anti-social and unpatriotic elements. The

State Governments were requested to advise their Police Deptts. to exercise maximum vigilance and strictness at not only the major ports and important points of export on the coast but also at airports and premises of the dealers in art objects.

10. He again requested them in June, 1970 to issue suitable instructions to Home and Police Departments to exercise utmost vigilance with a view to checking the growing spoilation and vandalism perpetrated in our ancient monuments and art treasures by anti-social and unpatriotic elements.

PROCUREMENT OF RICE

65. SHRI J. S. TILAK:
SHRI A. G. KULKARNI:
SHRI KOTA PUNNAIAH:
SHRI BRAHMANANDA PANDA:
SHRI CHANDRA SHEKHAR:
SHRI KRISHAN KANT:
DR. Z. A. AHMED:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the total procurement of rice during the years 1970-71, 1971-72 and 1972-73; and

(b) the target fixed yearwise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI ANNASAHAB SHINDE): (a) and (b) The targets fixed by the Agricultural Prices Commission for procurement of rice during the marketing years 1970-71, 1971-72 and 1972-73 and the actual procurement during the same period are indicated as under:—

(In Million tonnes)

Marketing Year	Procurement targets	Total procurement of rice
1970-71	4.70	3.20
1971-72	4.25	3.12
1972-73	4.00	2.22
(reported upto 27-4-73)		

HOUSES FOR SLUM DWELLERS

66. SHRI J. S. TILAK:
SHRI CHANDRA SHEKHAR:
SHRI KOTA PUNNAIAH:
SHRI BRAHMANANDA PANDA:
SHRI KRISHAN KANT:
DR. Z. A. AHMED:
SHRI A. G. KULKARNI:

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

(a) whether the scheme to provide houses to slum dwellers in the major cities has been finalised; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND IN THE MINISTRY OF WORKS AND HOUSING (SHRI OM MEHTA): (a) and (b) This Scheme is in the State Sector since 1st April, 1969 and details are worked out by the States.

Central assistance is provided for State Plan Schemes as a whole and State Governments are free to regulate expenditure on Schemes according to their priorities.

OUT OF TURN ALLOTMENT OF TYPE II QUARTERS

67. DR. BHAI MAHAVIR: Will the Minister of WORKS AND HOUSING be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that out of 15,000 type II quarters more than 7,000 have been allotted on out-of-turn basis;

(b) whether it is also a fact that nearly 7,000 type II residences are not in occupation of persons who are entitled for this type of accommodation but are occupied by persons who are entitled to higher type of accommodation; and

(c) whether Government propose to hire private accommodation to house non-allottees of type II accommodations as they are victims of large scale out-of-turn allotments?