

IMPLEMENTATION OF U.G.C. RECOMMENDATIONS

1326. DR. DEBIPRASAD CHATTO-PADHYAYA : Will the Minister of EDUCATION AND YOUTH SERVICES be pleased to state the measures Government have taken or propose to take to implement the University Grants Commission recommendations (3.29) that the retirement benefits, viz., "retirement gratuity, pension or gratuity, depending upon the length of service performed and a family pension should be extended to teachers working in educational institutions conducted by local authorities and private organisations" ?

THE MINISTER OF EDUCATION AND YOUTH SERVICES (PROF. V.K.R.V. RAO) : It is presumed that the hon. member is referring to the recommendations of the Education Commission (1964-66) and not to those of the University Grants Commission as stated in the Question.

The recommendations of the Education Commission to retirement benefits to teachers has been referred to the States and it is for them to implement it. Detailed information regarding the action taken by States in this area is being collected and will be placed before the House in due course.

TEMPLE SCULPTURES FROM LAHAUX AND SPITI

1327. SHRI A. C. GILBERT: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to refer to the reply to Unstarred Question No. 193 given in the Rajya Sabha on the 19th November, 1969 and state :

(a) on what authority the Officer concerned had brought certain very valuable stone and bronze sculptures from the temples of Lahaul and Spiti Districts of Himachal Pradesh;

(b) whether it is a fact that the Officer returned these articles to the Government of Himachal Pradesh only after the Lamas had complained to the District Magistrate concerned who then took the matter with the Government of India ;

(c) whether there were again complaints by the Lamas through their District Magistrate to the Government of India that most of the articles so returned were not genuine but fake and then the genuine articles were actually returned after the complaint was lodged by the District Magistrate to the Government of India.

(d) whether any enquiry was instituted by the C. B. I. into the matter and results of the enquiry and action taken against the Officer concerned and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI VIDYA CHARAN SHUKLA) : (a) The officer was not authorised by any officer or agency of the Government of India to bring these articles.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) and (e) As it was found that there had been no deliberate dishonesty on the part of the officer concerned no G.B.I. enquiry was held. The Officer was, however, conveyed Government's displeasure, in writing.

REPORT ON PROPOSED SELF-IMMOLATION BY SANT FATEH SINGH

1328. SHRI GANESHI LAL CHAUDHARY: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to a news item reported in the Daily Tribune dated 25th November 1969 that Sant Fateh Singh of Punjab will immolate himself on the 1st February 1970;

(b) if so, what are the main reasons for which this drastic section is proposed to be taken by him; and

(c) what is the reaction of Government in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI VIDYA CHARAN SHUKLA) :

(a) and (b) Government's attention has been drawn to press reports to the effect that Sant Fateh Singh intends to go on fast from 26th January 1970 and commit self-immolation on 1st February 1970 if Chandigarh is not merged with Punjab by January 26.

(c) Government themselves are anxious in the public interest to take a decision in the matter and announce it as early as possible and in any case, as stated in the reply to Unstarred Question No. 179 in Rajya Sabha on the 19th November, 1969, they will do so before the Budget Session of Parliament.