

things are being smuggled out in various ways. We have not so far found anything about it. We do not know how it is being done and how things turn out in foreign countries. We give the matter to the concerned authorities to find out about it.

SHRI N. SRI RAMA REDDY : The most valuable piece of museum article that I saw in London was not in the British Museum but it was in the Royal Jewellery Gallery. The famous Kohinoor diamond is still there. Is there any proposal to acquire it back?

PROF. V. K. R. V. RAO: I do not think there is any proposal to acquire it. In regard to the objects of great religious significance, we can certainly make an attempt but I am afraid I can give no guarantee that our attempts will succeed.

SHRI G. RAMACHANDRAN: I would like to refer particularly to the British Museum. The Minister will know that from the days of Mualana A/ud till to-day every kind of negotiation has gone on in regard to this British Museum saying that there are in it such valuable articles which must be returned to India. During all these years has anything happened? Has anything been returned? If not, what is the use of carrying on these negotiations? Where do we stand in this matter?

PROF. V. K. R. V. RAO: To the best of my knowledge I do not think we are carrying on any negotiation with regard to the British Museum.

SHRI N. SRI RAMA REDDY: Only with regard to the India Library.

PROF. V. K. R. V. RAO: The negotiations have been very prolonged. I am sorry that we have not come to any definite conclusion but the Member knows that several parties are involved in the matter—the British Government, the Pakistan Government and ourselves. We do not want to give up the negotiations till we are certain that we will not succeed.

SHRI LOKANATH MISRA: May I know whether the Minister is aware that there was a theft in the Jaipur Museum and the stolen paintings belonged to the Shahjahan period which are of great value? Five instalments had already been sent with the connivance of the Customs and when the

Other instalment was being sent, it was caught and the man has been restrained from sending it to America. Would there be any attempt on the part of the Minister to intimate all the Customs officials through the Finance Ministry so that proper check is there and no material of any architectural value or any painting can be sent abroad without the specific permission or scrutiny of the Customs Department?

PROF. V. K. R. V. RAO: Regarding the first part I do not know how the Member says that it was done with the connivance of the Customs.

SHRI DEVI SINGH: How were they sent?

PROF. V. K. R. V. RAO: Connivance is a deliberate participation in an unlawful act. I am not prepared to say that. I have no information to accept the suggestion made by the Member. Therefore I will have to repudiate it. As regards the other question, already instructions are there about the export of valuable articles. Unless they are certified by the D. G. Archaeology as free for export, they do not permit them to be exported but certainly in view of what the Member has stated I shall take up the matter again and see that fresh instructions or reminders are sent to the Customs.

\*334. [The questioner (Dr. (Mrs.) Mangladevi Valium) was absent. For answer, vide vol. 2835 infra.]

#### INCREASE IN THE OUTLAY ON HIGHER EDUCATION

SHRI S. A. KHAJA MOHIDEEN. Will the Minister of EDUCATION AND YOUTH SERVICES be pleased to state:

(i) whether the University Grants Commission has emphasised the need for substantial increase in the outlay on higher education; and

(ii) if no, the reaction of Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF EDUCATION AND YOUTH SERVICES (PROF. V. K. R. V. RAO): (a) In their report for 1967-68, the University Grants Commission have observed that the question of adequate resources is of crucial importance and the necessity

for a substantial increase in the outlay on higher education requires no emphasis.

(b) Efforts are made every year to provide adequate funds to the University Grants Commission within the available resources.

SHRI S. K. VAISHAMPAYEN: Whs) was the demand for education made by the UGC for grants to be given to it during the Fourth Plan and how much has been sanctioned?

PROF. V. K. R. V. RAO: I do not have with me readily the figures of what demand was made by the UGC but I would tell the Member that the amount allotted to the UGC during the Fourth Plan period is much larger even as a proportion of the total grant for general education than had been the case in the previous periods.

SHRI SUNDAR SINGH BHANDARI: On what basis? Unless you give the figures how can we know?

PROF. V. K. R. V. RAO: I can give the figures. The outlay on university education excluding technical education as a percentage of the total outlay on general education was during the First Plan 10.5, Second Plan 21.1, Third Plan 18.6 and the Fourth Plan 26.1 and the total amount involved is Rs. 182 crores.

SHRI K. P. SUBRAMANIA MF.NON: May I know in view of the fact that 75 per cent of our people are illiterate, whether the Government will consider giving priority to primary education rather than to university education which in the context of the present class relationship in India, would only help the upper classes only?

PROF. V. K. R. V. RAO: I would agree with the Member that primary education deserves the highest priority as far as education is concerned but it is a State subject and our regret is that when the States put forward their plans, they do not attach that importance to primary education which the Member has in mind and with which I am in complete agreement.

\*336. [The questioner (Shri Sitaram Jai-purici) was absent. For answer, vide col. 2835 infra.]

\*337. [The questioner (Sardar Marindar Siligh Brar) was absent. For answer, vide col. 2836 infra.]

#### BENGAL BANDH

\*338. SARDAR D. K. JADHAV: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government have held any talks with the Government of West Bengal on the issue of "Bengal Bandh": and

(b) if so, the outcome of the talks?

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI Y. B. CHAVAN): (a) and (b) The issues arising out of the strike in West Bengal on April 10, 1969 did figure during the meetings which the Prime Minister and the Home Minister had with the Chief Minister and the Deputy Chief Minister of West Bengal. The West Bengal Ministers stated that it was not the State Government's intention to have any confrontation with the Central Government.

As has been made repeatedly clear, the Government of India, on their part, believe in a policy of cooperation towards all State Governments. We hope that it will be possible to settle any questions which may arise in the future by mutual discussion between the Central Government and the State Government.

SARDAR D. K. JADHAV: Madam, this poses a serious problem before the Centre and this "Bengal Bandh" is, as I see it, actually a State Government "Bandh" against the Centre. This sort of mutual co-operation and mutual discussion, I do not think, will really help them to solve the problem. In view of the serious accidents and losses [that the Government has suffered because of this "Bandh" they should take it really seriously; also, in the long run, such "Bandhs" may also take place in other areas as well. May I know what loss they have suffered during this "Bandh"—the Central Government Departments, such as the Postal Department, the Railways and the Airlines?

SHRI Y. B. CHAVAN: In this question we are not discussing, or seeking any information about the merits or demerits of this