

Food Department, Food Corporation of India, State Governments and Union territories is about 7.6 million tonnes.

(c) Storage capacity of 2.96 lakh tonnes is at present under construction. Further programme of building more godowns in the current year is also under active consideration. Godowns are also being hired wherever necessary.

(d) With the capacity already available and the steps taken to increase the storage capacity by construction as also hiring, no difficulties are anticipated in storing buffer stocks proposed to be built up during this year.

†CLOSED INDUSTRIAL UNITS IN WEST BENGAL

1295. DR. BHAI MAHAVIR : Will the Minister of LABOUR AND REHABILITATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that 118 industrial units were closed down in West Bengal during the year 1967-68;

(b) whether any investigations have been made into the causes of their closure; and

(c) if so, the steps taken or proposed to be taken to get them start functioning again?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR AND REHABILITATION (SHRI JAI-SUKHLAL HATHI) : (a) During the period January 1967 to December 1967, 102 industrial units were closed, of which 41 re-opened in 1967. During the period January 1968 to July 1968, 87 industrial units have been closed, of which 13 have so far re-opened in 1968.

(b) and (c) A Committee was set up by the Government of West Bengal to look into the causes of closure of these units. The Committee has just submitted its report and its recommendations are under examination. Attempts are also being made by the State Government through conciliation to re-open closed units.

†Transferred from the 26th August, 1968.

CALLING ATTENTION TO A MATTER OF URGENT PUBLIC IMPORTANCE

THEFT OF RARE JEWELLERY AND COINS FROM THE NATIONAL MUSEUM, NEW DELHI

SHRI ARJUN ARORA (Uttar Pradesh) : Sir, I beg to call the attention of the Minister of Education to the theft of about 90 pieces of rare jewellery and 200 ancient gold coins reportedly worth several crores of rupees from the National Museum, New Delhi, on the night of Sunday, the 25th August, 1968.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EDUCATION (PROF. SHER SINGH) : I am sorry to inform the House that a theft involving the loss of 125 items of jewellery and 32 gold coins took place in the National Museum on the night between the 25th and 26th August, 1968. The total purchase value of the missing objects is about Rs. 1,79,000. The theft was discovered on the morning of the 26th August, 1968. The police, who were immediately informed arrived shortly thereafter and started their investigations. Simultaneously the Lt.-Governor of Delhi was informed of the theft.

The case is in the hands of the police and it will not be in public interest if I disclose anything further in the matter at this stage. I can assure the House that every effort will be made to trace the missing objects and to bring the culprits to book.

SHRI A. P. CHATTERJEE (West Bengal) : Sir, I rise on a point of order. The Minister has said just now that because investigation is being carried on by the police it is not in public interest to disclose certain things. Now, Sir, I am raising this point of order specifically that that is merely a way of avoiding the answer to the question in this House. The police investigation is not the same as the issue of the charge-sheet which is *sub judice*. If the police have only taken up an investigation, that does not prevent the Minister from disclosing the things. Rather, it is more in public interest that the things should be disclosed in the House. If he says that it is not in public interest to disclose the things just because it is under police investigation, I think, Mr. Chairman, that is completely out of order and you will kindly bring him within the order of this House and ask him to disclose the real facts before the House.

श्री निरंजन वर्मा (मध्य प्रदेश) : श्रीमान्, यह एक लीगल प्रश्न है और जहां तक लीगल प्रश्न का सवाल है। मेरे मित्र चटर्जी साहब सही नहीं हैं। इंवेस्टीगेशन के संबंध में पुलिस का जो इंवेस्टीगेशन होता है तो उस विषय में भी कई हाईकोर्ट्स की ऐसी रूलिंग्स हैं कि उस को भी सबजुडिस माना जाता है इसलिये वह सबजुडिस हो सकता है।

SHRI JOACHIM ALVA (Nominated) : Public interest can only embody or embrace the security of the land and nothing else.

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA (West Bengal) : This is very wrong of the Minister to say, in public interest he would not give. I hope he would not say, that is *sub judice*. It is not at all *sub judice*.

MR. CHAIRMAN : It is not the question. You must take a pragmatic view of the matter. The things are being enquired into. The police are going about and trying to find the culprits. If we are to ask details of what the police are doing, where they have gone, whom they have met, it is not in public interest to disclose these things . . .

(Interruptions)

श्री राजनारायण (उत्तर प्रदेश) : अखबारों में आ चुका है। एक विदेशी कोई गिरफ्तार हुआ है उस चोरी में। तो नित्य प्रति अखबारों में आ रहा है, लोग जान रहे हैं। तो यहां बताने में क्या दिक्कत है ?

SHRI ARJUN ARORA : I am very sorry that the Minister has tried to minimise the gravity of the theft, by saying that the purchase price of the things was a lakh and something. My information is that the international value of these antiques is Rs. 12 crores. As far as antiques are concerned their purchase price, or their value during the Gupta period, is not to be taken into consideration. The price of the antiques increases every day in the world. The older they are the costlier they become like old wine. My information is that the international sale price of these things today is Rs. 12 crores. Why does the Minister not realise the gravity of this national

disaster which has been brought about by the negligence of our people? All the locks remained in tact and these valuable possessions of the country disappeared and the Minister meekly submits to the House that it is only worth a lakh of rupees or so. Why does he not realise the gravity of it? Because he does not realise the gravity of it, I have reason to suspect that the steps taken by him and the Delhi Police are not adequate and something should be done? If the theft has occurred because of the negligence of the officials, something should have been done against those responsible for the theft by now and the country informed of the gravity of the occurrence.

Sir, every one knows that this theft of antiques and their smuggling to America is almost as widespread and prevalent a disaster as the gold smuggling. In the country for gold smuggling we have an Act, we have an Ordinance and we have punishments. But our national wealth, our cultural wealth is being stolen and smuggled out of India. I am afraid these things may already have gone out of India because the Minister has been very callous and thinks that things worth only a lakh of rupees have gone. No adequate steps have been taken, even after the theft, to see that the things are not smuggled out of India. I am very sorry that this Ministry does not realise the gravity of the loss.

PROF. SHER SINGH : Sir, I do realise the gravity . . .

MR. CHAIRMAN : It is an important matter. I would like since the Minister is here the Minister may reply. The Minister must reply . . .

SHRI A. P. CHATTERJEE : I have stated clearly that it is such an important question. Since the Minister is here he must reply.

THE MINISTER OF EDUCATION (DR. TRIGUNA SEN) : Sir, firstly, I do not know how to express that Ministers are also seriously concerned about the theft. I do not know how to express that we also feel it seriously. My friend feels that we are not seriously considering the gravity of the situation. I do not know how to express it or to show it.

Of course, it has been mentioned here that the purchase value of the missing articles is Rs. 1,79,000. I am

personally not interested in the money value of it. Maybe it is Rs. 1,79,000 and perhaps it can be sold away for Rs. 12 crores, Rs. 20 crores or Rs. 100 crores . . .

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA : Take, for example, Gandhiji's watch. It may have cost Rs. 10 but now its value . . .

DR. TRIGUNA SEN : . . . Money is not the main thing. The main thing is that these things cannot be replaced. That is the main thing. It is immaterial whether the man who has stolen it can fetch Rs. hundreds of crores elsewhere. I am not concerned with it. I am more concerned because these articles can not be replaced if we do not find them out.

As soon as we heard about this particular theft, I was very much concerned about it. I did not know what to do. We contacted the police. They are doing all their best. We have requested them to take all the steps possible so that it is not taken out at least from Delhi and taken out somewhere. They have alerted all the people everywhere. We are at it.

Now the question is whether the people inside the Museum are involved in it. Sir, it is very difficult to say at this stage. Well, I have got a feeling . . .

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA : I will give you all the facts.

DR. TRIGUNA SEN : Very good. I will be very happy but give it confidentially so that I can hand it over to the police. The question is about the loss of jewellery which is not replaceable. It must be known to some people within the organisation. Just an outsider cannot come and take it, I do not believe in this. There must be something in it and we must unearth it.

SHRI JOACHIM ALVA : Some link.

DR. TRIGUNA SEN : I am not sure. I will not accuse anybody. But I can only assure the House that I do not know how to express our concern and seriousness about this matter. We are doing all that is possible to unearth it.

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA : May I ask the hon'ble Minister one question? First of all, Mr. Arjun Arora is quite

right when he questioned the reply with regard to the purchase price. I am very sorry that purchase value in that form was mentioned, but he has made correction by saying that they are irreplaceable. Well, Sir, Humayun may have bought a diamond for Rs. 2,000. But it may now cost Rs. 2 crores. Therefore, I am astonished rather I am aghast at the Minister's reply. Now is it not a fact—as you know, I am very definite in such matters—that these thefts from the National Museum in New Delhi and the Salar Jung Museum in Hyderabad and other places have become almost a common occurrence. Now it is increasing here also. Is it not a fact that in March this year thefts took place in the National Museum in Delhi and earlier 131 exhibits were stolen from the Salar Jung Museum. Even so the Government does not seem to have woken up to the seriousness. Is it not a fact that Dr. Rozario, a Joint Secretary of the Ministry of Education, is also the Chief controlling officer of all the National Museums? We should like to know how he is discharging this duty. Is it not a fact that one Shri Ahluwalia, who was a mere surveyor in the Agra Fort, was accused of stealing cars, scooters, office cameras, chandeliers from a mosque in U.P.? Two such stolen cars, however, were found subsequently by the Delhi Police in the house, according to my information, from the house of Dr. Rozario, 98, Shahjahan Road, New Delhi. May I know, Sir, whether it is not a fact that one Amar Singh, Caretaker of the Humayun's Tomb, Delhi, who was also at Agra was sacked on complaints of theft, embezzlement of Government funds, etc. and it was this Dr. Rozario who came to his rescue and brought him here? He is a man of questionable character. I should like to know whether the hon'ble Minister is aware that on the 2nd January, 1968 there was a commotion near the Sleeper Bogey of Dakshin Express at Nampally railway station, Hyderabad, as the Railway Police tried to wring a flower pot from the unwilling hands of one Mr. Tandon, Assistant Chemist, National Museum, New Delhi. The flower pot turned out to be that of the Salar Jung Museum as indicated by the letters 'S.J.M.' impressed on it. The lucky man for whom the pot was being carried by the hapless Tandon was named Dr. Rozario, the Joint Secretary of the Education Ministry, in charge of this Museum. May I know whether

[Shri Bhupesh Gupta]

It is not a fact that Dr. Rozario has been receiving presents from Shri V. K. Krishnaswamy, the Chief of the Salar Jung Museum, and earlier from one, Shri M. A. Razvi, Keeper of the Salar Jung Museum in 1959? All these facts are known today. Therefore, very grave suspicions have arisen with regard to the administration of the Museum including about all with regard to the man who is supposed to be the Controller of this Museum. He has been receiving presents and so on. His House contains all these things and one at least was caught at the Railway Station in Hyderabad. In view of this, I should like to know why the Minister is keeping him in that position.

Secondly, why is he not ordering a probe, a thorough enquiry, into the entire administration to find out how many questionable characters are there, placed in various museums, who want to oblige their masters here in Delhi? All these things should be found out. I have got other names, but I do not want to give them. All I can say is that this involves national interest. It is not a party question. People who have been found criminally guilty and thrown out of jobs are being re-instated because somebody likes them. Such things have happened. Complete corruption and demoralisation have come. They have now started plundering the great, irreplaceable national assets. I demand here a thorough enquiry by a body which would command the confidence of the entire nation into the administration of our National Museums. This, Sir, is in the interest of preserving our national heritage. If we loose them, we shall never get them. If we lose Mr. Bhupesh Gupta, the Communist, another will come and sit here. But if you lose some of these things, never shall we get them. They are connected with international gangsters who take these things and sell them at higher prices and so on. I would appeal again and again in the name of the House to the Education Minister to remove here and now Mr. Rozario, the Joint Secretary, who at least has failed in his duty. At least in one case, it has been found out that a flower pot from the Hyderabad Museum was being brought for him by one Mr. Tandon, and he has appointed some people who had been sent out. A *prima facie* case is enough to hold an enquiry. Clean the Augean's

stable. Put men of integrity and men about suspicion and see that at least our National Museum which will pass from generation to generation down the corridor of history is saved.

SHRI AKBAR ALI KHAN (Andhra Pradesh): We do not want to lose Mr. Bhupesh Gupta; he is also very valuable.

DR. TRIGUNA SEN: I am really surprised, I am concerned . . .

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA: One Mr. V. K. Krishnaswamy presented this thing.

DR. TRIGUNA SEN: I am ashamed to hear all these things, the charges against my Ministry . . .

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA: Not Ministry; Secretary.

DR. TRIGUNA SEN: Anyway, a particular section.

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA: Yes.

DR. TRIGUNA SEN: I plead guilty to the charge because I personally did not look to this section so long; I take the responsibility. But the charges that have been put before the House by Mr. Gupta are really very grave and serious. I can only assure the House that in no time I will appoint a committee to enquire into the whole administration.

SHRI CHANDRA SHEKHAR (Uttar Pradesh): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I congratulate the hon. Education Minister for responding to the wishes of the House . . .

DR. TRIGUNA SEN: I always do so.

SHRI CHANDRA SHEKHAR: Yes, thank you. I congratulate Mr. Bhupesh Gupta for bringing out all these facts. But I shall like to give a warning to the hon. Education Minister. The reply given to the Calling Attention motion was an indication of the callousness that is prevailing in the Education Ministry because as my friend, Mr. Arjun Arora, said there was no necessity to give the purchase value of Rs. 1 lakh. The persons who were preparing this reply to the Calling Attention motion were also out to see that the seriousness of this theft is minimised, and this great national calamity, as Mr. Bhupesh Gupta and Mr.

Arjun Arora said, was attempted to be concealed by the officials responsible in the Education Ministry. I am very happy that the Education Minister has taken prompt action and has said that everything will be unearthed. This is not the first time, as Mr. Bhupesh Gupta has said. Many a time when such reports come, there is always a tendency to say in Parliament also that it will not be in public interest to disclose anything, and we would hear the report as if it is a report of a police constable and not a report of a Ministry responsible to Parliament. Dr. Triguna Sen has given a fresh air in this suffocating atmosphere which has been prevailing for some time in this House, and for that Dr. Triguna Sen should be congratulated.

श्री राजनारायण : श्रीमन्, यह बड़ा महत्वपूर्ण प्रश्न यहाँ पर उठा हुआ है। आप स्वयं जानते होंगे कि जब आप राज्यपाल थे उत्तर प्रदेश में तो देवगढ़ मन्दिर में, जो जैनियों का बहुत ही मशहूर मन्दिर है, एक जर्मन प्रोफेसर तीन महीने तक ठहरा था, उसने जितनी अच्छी मूर्तियाँ थीं उन सब पर निशान लगा दिया और उसके एक महीने के बाद कुछ के हाथ, कुछ के सिर कट गए। कोई एक बन्ना कम्पनी है दिल्ली में, जब इस सवाल को उत्तर प्रदेश की विधान सभा में हमने उठाया था तो वहाँ की, उत्तर प्रदेश की पुलिस ने छापा मारा, जिस समय तक का वहाँ का रिकार्ड पकड़ा गया उस समय तक दो लाख रुपये के कुछ सिर और कुछ हाथ बिक चुके थे। यह एक अन्तर्राष्ट्रीय गिरोह है। अभी मैं खुजराहो गया था, गुजराहो में भी कुछ इसी तरह मूर्तियाँ चुराई गईं। उसकी स्थिति यह बताई जानी है कि जो सरकारी केयरटेकर लोग होते हैं, जो विदेशी वहाँ भ्रमण करने जाते हैं, वे उनको मामूली-मामूली ट्राजिस्टर दे देते हैं या कोई और सामान दे देते हैं और उनकी ऐवज में वहाँ की जो प्राचीन मूर्तियाँ हैं उनको उठा ले जाते हैं। हमको सचमुच बड़ा आश्चर्य हुआ क्योंकि इस मामले को कई बार हमने उठाया, इस सदन में भी उठा चुका है। जब माननीय शेर सिंह जी ने एक लाख सत्तर हजार या अस्सी हजार की फिगर दी तो मुझे बहुत आश्चर्य हुआ। इस फिगर को देने की

कोई आवश्यकता नहीं थी। प्रश्न यह है कि जिससे भारतीय सस्कृति की झलक मिलती है वे चीजे आज बहुत ही उँची कीमत पर अमरीका में खरीदी जा रही हैं। "हेयर स्टाइल इन देवगढ़" एक पुस्तिका लिखी है जर्मन प्रोफेसर ने। शेर सिंह जी इसको जानते होंगे कि जैनियों में जो हेयर स्टाइल की, बालों की कला है, जिस ढंग से बाल बनाए जाते हैं वह सबसे सुन्दर मानी जाती है। आज फिल्मों में भी उसकी नकल हो रही है।

श्री ए० डी० मणि (मध्य प्रदेश) : बहुत अच्छा है।

श्री राजनारायण : कोई न कोई व्यवस्था हो। कमेटी कब बने, कब न बन, मैं चाहता हूँ कि कमेटी बनाने का जो आश्वासन मंत्री महोदय ने दिया उसमें देर न हो, शीघ्रता हो और इस शीघ्रता से इस काम को किया जाय कि सारे देश में जहाँ प्राचीन स्मारक हैं, प्राचीन स्मृतियाँ हैं, उनकी सुरक्षा का प्रबन्ध तुरन्त हो सके, उनकी सुरक्षा के लिए कोई स्पेशल आदेश दिया जाय तमाम राज्यों में ताकि वहाँ पर जहाँ मन्दिर है स्पेशल पुलिस चौकी हो, कोई न कोई व्यवस्था हो। हमारे दिमाग में कोई नक्शा इस समय नहीं है। नहीं तो हम सरकार को मुझाव देते कि इस ढंग से इसकी रोकथाम हो सकती है, मगर रोकथाम का होना बहुत आवश्यक है। इसकी कीमत रुपये में नहीं आकी जानी चाहिए, इसकी कीमत प्राचीन भारतीय सभ्यता और सस्कृति के रूप में आकी जा सकती है।

श्री निरंजन वर्मा : श्रीमन्, मैं योग्य मंत्री जी का ध्यान इस तरफ आकर्षित करूँगा कि पिछले दिनों से कई गिरोह सक्रिय हैं इस दिशा में। अभी साची के पास जो बड़ोह पठारी का मन्दिर है वहाँ से 20 मूर्तियाँ चुरा ली गईं, जिसके बारे में मध्य प्रदेश सरकार और हमने माननीय मंत्री जी को लिखा, राज्यपाल जी को भी लिखा। एक-एक छोटी अशोक की चतुर्मुखी शेर की मूर्ति दो-दो लाख रुपये में जर्मनी, कनाडा और आस्ट्रेलिया के लोग लेने के लिए तैयार हैं। विदिशा में वे क्रय करते हैं। श्रीमन्, तो मैं

[श्री निरंजन वर्मा]

यह निवेदन करना चाहता हूँ कि भविष्य में इस प्रकार की कोई गलतियाँ न हों और चोरियाँ न हों, इसलिए उपलब्ध वस्तुओं के संरक्षण के लिए बहुत अच्छे लाक के साथ लोहे की दीवारों या लोहे के सीखचों में इन चीजों को रखना चाहिए ताकि ये चीजें चोरी न की जा सकें।

1 P. M.

इसके साथ ही मैं एक निवेदन और करूँगा कि विदेश के कलक्टर से आप जानकारी ले लें कि यहाँ पर इन दिनों में जो चोरों का गिरोह है वह दिल्ली के दो खास गिरोहों के जो मालिक हैं उनसे मिला हुआ है और मेरा ऐसा खयाल है कि हम और आप विदेशियों की तरफ देखते रहे कि शायद उन्होंने चुराई हो लेकिन संभवतः वह दिल्ली के चोरों के दो बड़े बड़े गिरोह हैं उन्होंने चुराई हो और उनसे इस वान का क्लृप्त मिल सकता है।

SHRI M. RUTHNASWAMY (Madras): May I ask the hon. Minister whether he would limit the scope of the Committee which he is going to form just to enquire into the charges so freely and so incontinently levelled by Mr. Bhupesh Gupta against certain officials of the Ministry of Education or whether he would extend the scope of the Committee to the whole question of protection of our Museums against this loot which, I believe, is organised by regular gangs of people from outside who are allowed to commit as many thefts as possible? It is all very well for the police to enquire into these thefts after they have occurred but what are our Museum authorities doing to prevent thefts of this kind, thefts of our precious relics and antiquities? I hope he will extend the scope of this enquiry to the whole question of the organisation of our Museums, so far as the protection of these antiquities is concerned.

DR. TRIGUNA SEN: I said so, to enquire into organisation and administration of the Museums as such.

SHRI A. P. JAIN (Uttar Pradesh): Sir, the question raised by my friend over there is a very important question; it is not just a question of small

enquiry against an official. This is a very important question. I would request that the whole question of working arrangements of all the Museums and all the places where these valuable items exist may be examined, so that we may take a comprehensive decision on that. I also think that we should have public men on the Committee so that a larger view may be taken.

SHRI RAM NIWAS MIRDHA (Rajasthan): Sir, we are grateful to the hon. Minister for very readily responding to the wishes of the House and agreeing to appoint a Committee. As was said here, it is a much wider question; there is a regular smuggling going on of our national treasures and antiquities. When we go abroad, we see in antique shops Indian miniatures, small statutes and priceless works of Indian art which can only go through clandestine means. Sir, the law concerning antiquities and protected monuments is a very faulty law; the way it has worked, it has contributed to some extent to these things. So this law needs to be thoroughly gone into and, if necessary, a new legislation can be enacted; the law should be made much more stringent and its enforcement should be ensured. I think a lot has to be done on that score. I would request you to keep that also in mind when you appoint this Committee.

Lastly, there are a large number of protected monuments lying about in all parts of our country and there is one chowkidar or two to look after those priceless things and it is just impossible with these security arrangements to protect those priceless treasures. So, whether it is our Museums or other protected monuments. I would request the hon. Minister to make sufficient provision in the Budget for their preservation and for their safety and I am sure the House will willingly support him in all the steps that he takes in that direction.

SHRI M. M. DHARIA (Maharashtra): Mr. Chairman, without taking much time of the House, I must say that we are happy that the hon. Minister has announced the formation of the Committee but we find that serious charges have been levelled against the person in charge of that Department. Is it not necessary that the person holding that charge must be immediately suspended and a departmental enquiry started? The Committee which

the hon. Minister proposes to have will have vast jurisdiction but here the man who has committed or is alleged to have committed so many things, as read out by Mr. Bhupesh Gupta, will continue as the person in charge of the Department and he may go on giving replies, as was suggested by Mr. Chandra Shekhar. May I know from the hon. Minister what steps will be immediately taken against those persons who have been named in this House today? I would like to know what he proposes to do about that.

SHRI AKBAR ALI KHAN: May I submit one thing, Sir? It is true that when charges are made in this House, they have to be taken very seriously, but simply because charges are made, without any *prima facie* enquiry action should be taken, I would not suggest that.

(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN: Mr. Murahari is standing for a long time.

SHRI GODEY MURAHARI (Uttar Pradesh): Sir, on a point of order.

MR. CHAIRMAN: No point of order. You put the question.

SHRI GODEY MURAHARI: Absolutely there is no order in the House.

MR. CHAIRMAN: It is unfortunate, but all of us share it.

SHRI GODEY MURAHARI: I cannot share it. I am sorry I have been trying to keep order in this House but I find . . .

MR. CHAIRMAN: I am sharing with you by being too tolerant. I shall also have to be very careful to see that tolerance is not misused.

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA: Sir, tolerance like antiquities should be preserved.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Yes, Mr. Murahari.

श्री गोड़े मुराहरी: क्या मैं मंत्री महोदय से पूछ सकता हूँ कि जो हमारे म्यूजियम हैं उनमें कहीं पर भी अलार्म नहीं है और दुनिया में कोई ऐसा म्यूजियम नहीं होता है जहाँ पर वर्गलर अनाउन्समेन्ट नहीं होते हैं लेकिन न दिल्ली के नेशनल म्यूजियम में वर्गलर अनाउन्समेन्ट होता है और नहीं कहीं और है? इसलिये

मैं जानना चाहूँगा कि जो हमारे म्यूजियम्स हैं जहाँ इतनी कीमती चीजें होती हैं वहाँ पर ऐसी व्यवस्था क्यों है।

मेरा दूसरा प्रश्न यह है कि मैं कई बार पूछ चुका हूँ कि खजुराहो या जो अन्य मान्युमेन्ट्स हैं वहाँ से कई बड़ी बड़ी मूर्तियाँ यूरोप और अमरीका के बड़े बड़े शहरों में ले जायी जाती हैं और इसकी जांच भी हुई है और केस पकड़े भी गए हैं फिर भी समझ में नहीं आता इस चीज को महत्व क्यों नहीं दिया जाता। अभी जैसा भूषेण गुप्त ने फर्माया, यहाँ पर छोटे-बड़े कर्मचारी इसमें इन्वाल्व्ड हैं। यह कन्क्लूड करना सही है कि यह आफिसर इस चीज को उतना महत्व नहीं देना चाहते हैं और दबाकर रखना चाहते हैं ताकि छुप छुप कर सारी नेशनल सम्पत्ति बाहर भेजते रहे। मैं जानना चाहता हूँ क्या यह सारा डिपार्टमेन्ट, कम से कम-आर्कियोलोजी, जो एजुकेशन मिनिस्ट्री के इन चार्ज है उसको रीऑर्गनाइज किया जायेगा, क्या इसके सबंध में कानून में भी बदलाव करने की कोशिश करेंगे। मैं आपको आश्वासन देना चाहता हूँ कि अगर आप कोई ऐसा बिल लायेंगे जिसमें सख्त से सख्त सजा की व्यवस्था हो ऐसे लोगों के लिये जो चोरी करके यहाँ चोरी में ऐंक्ट करके मौन्युमेन्ट्स का व्यापार करते हैं, हम उस सख्त से सख्त सजा का समर्थन करेंगे। मैं चाहूँगा, सरकार इस दिशा में काम करे, जो कानून इस सबंध में हो उसको ठीक करे, मान्युमेन्ट्स और म्यूजियम के सही इतजाम के लिये कदम उठाए और जो इन्टरपोल है उससे भी सहायता ली जाय, और इस तरह से कोऑर्डिनेशन किया जाय कि यह जो मान्युमेन्ट्स इत्यादि इस तरह से चोरी से ले जाया जाता है उसको भी इन्टरपोल के जरिये धरपकड़ करने की पूरी कार्यवाही हो।

SHRI G. A. APPAN (Madras): Sir, in view of the constant thefts that are taking place in Museums and important temples, may I know whether the Government knows that in the technique of criminology there is a system called *modus operandi* and according

[Shri G. A. Appan]

to that system of *modus operandi*, a certain section of people specialised and experienced in this technique only could be lifting things like that from such places? In view of the urgency and the importance of the situation now prevailing, we cannot delay matters and the hon. Minister will have to take immediate steps to appoint a Committee—today itself. He should not give such details to the public, but it should be taken by surprise. The Government should do it in such a way that they do not come to know of it. The Government can send its intelligence staff throughout this country. There is already an inter-State gang, a national gang and an international gang doing these things. So unless we take the matter into immediate cognisance, it will not be possible for us to locate the stolen articles and to replace this irreparable loss of rare items. In view of this, I would like a reply from the Minister.

MR. CHAIRMAN: All these suggestions will be noted.

SHRI MULKA GOVINDA REDDY (Mysore): I would like to add only one thing that the Minister has promised to appoint a Committee to go into this question. The terms of reference of that Committee should be comprehensive. The protection of the museum and the preservation of the museum should also be there and I would suggest that some charges have been made against one officer of the Ministry. At least the Minister should come forward and see that he is divested of this responsibility of looking into the affairs of this Museum.

SHRI GODEY MURAHARI: Immediately.

SHRI MULKA GOVINDA REDDY: I would also like that the Minister should go into the assets of the curators of these museums so that it will give some picture of how these officers are managing these museums.

SHRI M. N. KAUL (Nominated): It is clear that police action will be taken to recover the pieces of jewellery that have been stolen. Further a Committee may be appointed. But what I am concerned about is what urgent action the Government itself can take immediately to protect the remaining precious things we have. It

is clear that the present arrangements are inadequate. Till more adequate arrangements are made and till the report of the Committee is received, in the mean time the Government should remove from these museums all the precious things and put them in safe custody. That is one urgent action that the Government can take till adequate arrangements are made. I think it is very vital that we should concern ourselves not only with what has been lost but what should be protected from further ravages. The second question is, it may well have been that this jewellery has already gone out of India. In that case what are the means available to the Government to alert the international organisations and friendly foreign Governments to give assistance in this matter?

DR. (MRS.) MANGLADEVI TALWAR (Rajasthan): I congratulate the Education Minister for agreeing to appoint a Committee and also to look into the organisation for the protection of the museum in the future. It has been suggested by a few speakers that effective organisation or effective guard or effective protection should be given. I would like to know for information that to protect the valuable treasures which we cannot replace, what has been the arrangements so far and why the Government because of financial reasons or other causes, have not put the burglar alarm in these valuable sections at least of the museum? May I know how the theft has occurred so easily without the knowledge of anyone there? How did it happen?

AN HON. MEMBER: Must have been in collusion with people inside.

DR. (MRS.) MANGLADEVI TALWAR: Yes, it must have been. I agree with Members who say that the people in charge of this should be enquired into and their conduct should be enquired into and they should be brought to book. Immediate steps should be taken for the protection of the remaining treasures in the museum, not only in this but in other places of archaeological interest.

SHRI KRISHAN KANT (Haryana): May I know from the Minister if it is not a fact that this is the second theft and the first theft also has not so far been traced? Secondly, is it a fact that after the first theft certain suggestions were made for the security of the museum there and those recommendations have not been implemented till now? If it is a fact, why

were those suggestions not implemented?

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA : Before you conclude I will request one thing. The terms of reference, the Minister should draw up with some competent people. I would like you to have a look at it. This is not a question of politics. I have faith in you. You kindly also see. I am not asking that I should see it. I trust the Minister also in such matters but there should be competent people. The terms of reference are very important. Secondly, those who are expected to give evidence should be protected. They must not be subjected to prosecution. If Mr. Rozario remains, I am afraid it will not be a fair investigation. There is a strong *prima facie* case. He has asked for papers from me. I shall try to pass them but one paper I cannot give. Mr. Razario, when he was in London, landed in a case—1963 (Q. B.) 106—1964. This is the report. That case was Ghosh vs. D. Rozario. Then he had to be sent back to this country. Many things happened. Diplomatic immunity was claimed. Kindly also get through the High Commissioner in London a copy of those related materials of the case. I know the case but I am not going into it. So it is very, very important that at least Mr. Rozario, after what he has said and after what is happening in the Museum, should be removed from the charge of this Museum. I am not asking him to believe in me in what I say and take action or suspend him. I know that certain service conduct rules are there but it is in the discretion of the Minister to remove a person from a particular branch and give him some other job. You can do this in a ministerial capacity.

RESULT OF ELECTION TO THE NATIONAL SHIPPING BOARD

MR. CHAIRMAN : Shri Mulka Govinda Reddy, being the only candidate nominated for election to the National Shipping Board, he is declared duly elected to be a member of the said Board.

Papers to be laid on the Table. Shri Jaisukhlal Hathi.

PAPERS LAID ON THE TABLE

ANNUAL REPORT AND ACCOUNTS (1966-67) OF THE EMPLOYEES' STATE INSURANCE CORPORATION

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR AND REHABILITATION (SHRI JAI-SUKHLAL HATHI) : Sir, I beg to lay on the Table a copy of the Annual Report and Accounts of the Employees' State Insurance Corporation for the year 1966-67, under section 36 of the Employees' State Insurance Act, 1948. [Placed in Library. See No. LT-1941/68.]

REPORT *re* FATAL ACCIDENT IN SARVODAYA STONE MINE

SHRI JAISUKHLAL HATHI : Sir, I also beg to lay on the Table a copy of the Report of the Directorate General of Mines Safety on the fatal accident which occurred in the Sarvodaya Stone Mine, District Panchmahal, Gujarat, on the 6th June, 1968. [Placed in Library. See No. LT-1942/68.]

THE BENGAL VAGRANCY (AMENDMENT) ACT, 1968

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF LAW (SHRI MOHAMMAD YUNUS SALEEM) : Sir, on behalf of Shri P. Govinda Menon, I beg to lay on the Table, under sub-section (3) of section 3 of the West Bengal State Legislature (Delegation of Powers) Act, 1968, a copy of the Bengal Vagrancy (Amendment) Act, 1968 (President's Act No. 23 of 1968). [Placed in Library. See No. LT-1944/68.]

ANNUAL REPORT (1967) OF THE PRESS COUNCIL OF INDIA

SHRI JAISUKHLAL HATHI : Sir, on behalf of Shri K. K. Shah, I beg to lay on the Table, under section 18 of the Press Council Act, 1965, a copy of the Annual Report of the Press Council on India for the year 1967. [Placed in Library. See No. LT-1971/68.]

AUDIT REPORT ON THE ACCOUNTS (1966-67) OF THE NATIONAL CO-OPERATIVE DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION, NEW DELHI

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD, AGRICULTURE, COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AND COOPERATION (SHRI M. S. GURUPADASWAMY) : Sir, I beg to lay on the Table a copy