

*345. [The questioner (Shrimati Savitry Devi Nigam) was absent. For answers, vide col. 1713 *infra*.]

**POSSESSION OF MAHARANI LAXMI BAI'S
PALACE BY ARCHAEOLOGICAL
DEPARTMENT**

*346. SHRI B. N. BHARGAVA: Will the Minister of SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH AND CULTURAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Archaeological Department have taken over the possession of the palace belonging to the late Maharani Laxmi Bai of Jhansi; if so, when and for what purposes; and

(b) how the building is being utilized?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER OF SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH AND CULTURAL AFFAIRS (DR. MONO MOHAN DAS): (a) No, Sir.

(b) It is in the occupation of the State Government.

श्री भगवत भारद्वाज भागवत : क्या यह सही है कि यू० पी० गवर्नमेंट ने इस इमारत को टेक ओवर करने के लिये आर्कियालॉजिकल डिपार्टमेंट को लिखा है ?

DR. MONO MOHAN DAS: No, Sir.

SHRI FARIDUL HAQ ANSARI: In view of the fact that it is a very important building of historical importance may I know whether the Government of India proposes to take that building under its own protection?

DR. MONO MOHAN DAS: Sir, the question of taking over this building to be maintained by the Department of Archaeology first came up in the year 1953. At that time, and since then, the building has been under the occupation of the U. P. Government and a police station is situated there. When we wrote to the U. P. Government, they said that it would take at least ten years for the construction

of a new building for the police station. Now, the hon. questioner himself has informed us that the new building being constructed by the U.P. Government is nearly completed. But we have not received any communication so far from the U. P. Government.

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA: We have got some Monuments Act to protect this kind of national monuments and so on. May I know since when this knowledgeable Government came to know of the fact that these sacred places had been taken over for use by the police, and why something else could not be done for that, at least, in order to make them available to be preserved as places as national sanctity?

DR. MONO MOHAN DAS: In the year 1953 we wrote to the U. P. Government to vacate the building so that it could be taken under the protection of the Government of India. The U. P. Government wrote to us that they were going to construct a building and it might take ten years to complete it and that as soon as that building was completed, they would examine the question of vacating it.

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA: It is not 1953.

MR. CHAIRMAN: I know that.

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA: Seven years to construct a building! Government talk of big things. May I know why it was not possible for the Government to requisition some other palace belonging to a prince and quarter the police there and release this sacred place in order to preserve it as a national monument?

DR. MONO MOHAN DAS: I shall be grateful to the hon. Member if he himself or his counterpart takes up this question in the U. P. Assembly.

SHRI K. SANTHANAM: May I know if it is the policy of the Government of India to take over all these old forts

and other buildings under the Government, to put them into use or to keep them idle?

DR. MONO MOHAN DAS If they are considered worthy of protection by Government and are declared as monuments of national importance, they are taken over

श्री भगवत तारायण भागवत . क्या गवर्नमेंट का यह मामलूम है कि जो बिल्डिंग वहा पर कोतवाजी के लिये बना रही थी वह बन चुकी और पुलिस भी चली गयी, फिर भी यह बिल्डिंग बहुत अरसे से खाली पड़ी हुई है ?

DR MONO MOHAN DAS Sir, we have been informed by the hon Member who has sent us a letter of one of the M L A's of the U P Legislature about that, but from the U.P. Government we have not yet received any communication

DR. RAGHUBIR SINH May I know if, in view of the letter that the hon Member has received from the M L A, he has taken up the matter with the U P Government or not?

DR MONO MOHAN DAS We are expecting that as soon as their new building is completed and they have vacated this old building of the Ram of Jhansi, they will communicate to us

NATIONALISATION OF INSURANCE BUSINESS IN CEYLON

*347 SHRI SURESH J DESAI Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state.

(a) the effect of proposed nationalisation of insurance business in Ceylon on the operations so far carried on by the Life Insurance Corporation of India in that country, and

(b) the total assets and liabilities of the Life Insurance Corporation of India in Ceylon?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRIMATI TARKESHWARI SINHA) (a) The legislation in respect of nationalisation of insurance business in Ceylon is still in the stage of a Bill. It is, therefore, not possible to say what will exactly be the effect of nationalisation on the operations carried on so far by the Life Insurance Corporation in that country

(b) Accurate statistics are not available

*348 [The questioner (Dr A. Subba Rao) was absent For answer, vide cols. 1713-14 infra]

*349 [The questioner (Shri Harihar Patel) was absent. For answer, vide col 1714 infra]

THIRD BLAST FURNACES AT BHILAI AND ROURKELA

*350 { DR Z A AHMAD
SHRI N SRI RAMA REDDY†

Will the Minister of STEEL, MINES AND FUEL be pleased to state

(a) whether it is a fact that the third blast furnaces at both Bhilai and Rourkela had been lying idle for a considerable time after their completion,

(b) if so, what are the reasons therefor,

(c) what is the extent of loss in production of steel due to this; and

(d) what steps Government have taken to remedy the situation?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL, MINES AND FUEL (SARDAR SWARAN SINGH):

(a) to (d) The third blast furnace at Bhilai is ready. Production can start when the third battery of coke ovens, which was lighted on the 12th of October, can start making coke for the blast furnace. This is expected to happen in a few weeks

†The question was actually asked on the floor of the House by Shri N. Sri Rama Reddy