

petent architects to prepare the designs. There is no need to consult the political parties; did the hon. Member refer to them?

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA: No; I am not saying that.

DR. K. L. SHRIMALI: Anyway, it is not necessary to consult others.

SHRI B. B. SHARMA: Would it not be desirable to postpone this unnecessary item?

DR. K. L. SHRIMALI: As I said, since the Finance Minister is of the opinion that this need not be taken up now in view of our financial Stringency, the whole matter will have to be considered very carefully.

SHRI N. R. MALKANI: What is the estimated expenditure on this National Theatre?

DR. K. L. SHRIMALI: One crore.

DR. SHRIMATI SEETA PARMANAND: In view of the urgency of the economic situation, is it necessary to take this up at all now?

DR. K. L. SHRIMALI: I have already replied to that.

DISCOVERY OF ANCIENT SANSKRIT AND TIBETAN MANUSCRIPTS IN TIBET

*264. DR. NIHAR RANJAN RAY: Will the Minister of EDUCATION AND SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH be pleased to state:

(a) whether he is aware that recently a large number of ancient Sanskrit and Tibetan manuscripts dating from the eighth century A.D. were discovered at the Sakeya monastery near Shigatse in Tibet; and

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(b) if so, whether Government propose to depute competent scholars to study and fetch copies of all such documents for further critical study or to obtain microfilmed or photostat copies of the important documents through normal diplomatic channels?

THE MINISTER OF STATE *m THIS* MINISTRY OF EDUCATION AND SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH (DR. K. L. SHRIMALI): (a) No, Sir.

(b) This will be considered after the facts are known.

DR. NIHAR RANJAN RAY: May I know if any attempt has been made by the Ministry of Education to check up on a recent Tass Agency report that similar discoveries were made in Soviet Armenia dating from the 8th to 16th century?

DR. K. L. SHRIMALI: The Government has no information about this matter, and I cannot say anything unless we get information about this matter.

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA: May I know whether after having got the notice of the question the hon. Minister anticipated a question like this and whether he tried to get some information?

(No reply)

*265. [Postponed to the 4th September, 1957.]

GRANTS TO PUBLIC SCHOOLS

*266. SHRI DEOKINANDAN NARAYAN: Will the Minister of EDUCATION AND SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH be pleased to state:

(a) the names of the public schools which were given grants during the year 1956-57;

(b) the number of students that are receiving education in these schools; and

(c) the monthly expenditure a student is required to bear in these schools?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EDUCATION AND SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH (DR. K. L. SHRIMALI): (a) (1) Birla Vidya Mandir, Naini Tal.