

The Ministries have sent, or will send, suitable replies to questions with which they are concerned.

(b) As pointed out in reply to part '(a) of the question, the Ministries are to send their replies direct to the Commission; the question of consolidating these replies on behalf of the Central Government and publishing them does not arise at present.

ARCHAEOLOGICAL OPERATIONS IN
AYODHYA

205. SHRI P. C. BHANJ DEO: Will the Minister for EDUCATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Archaeological Department has started operations in the village of Ayodhya in Nilgiri sub-division in Orissa; and

(b) if so, whether any report on its operations in that village has so far been issued?

THE MINISTER FOR EDUCATION AND
NATURAL RESOURCES AND
SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH (MAULANA
ABUL KALAM AZAD): (a) No.

(b) Does not arise.

LEAVE OF ABSENCE TO MEMBERS (1)

SHRI S. SAMBHU PRASAD.

'2) SHRI V. K. KRISHNA MENON.

MR. CHAIRMAN: I have to inform hon. Members that the following letter has been received from Shri S. Sambhu Prasad:

"I regret to have to write to you that in spite of an operation I underwent last year I am still suffering from acute stomach trouble. I am undergoing treatment and my Doctors have advised me not to move

out. I request you, therefore, to grant me leave of absence for the present session."

Is it the pleasure of the Council that permission be granted to Shri S. Sambhu Prasad for remaining absent from all meetings of the Council during its current session?

(No hon. Member dissented.)

MR. CHAIRMAN: Permission to remain absent is granted.

I have to inform hon. Members that the following letter has been received from Shri V. K. Krishna Menon:

"I much regret my inability to be present at the current session of the Council of States as the Government of India have appointed me as their representative to the present session of the Trusteeship Council of the United Nations.

These meetings are in progress, and are scheduled to last till the middle of March and may well last a little longer. We have only a small delegation, which renders the prospect of my being able to leave it, earlier than the end of the session of the Trusteeship Council itself, difficult, without prejudice to our duties in this regard.

In these circumstances, I request you, Mr. Chairman, and the Council of States, to grant me leave of absence during the period I am obliged to be away for the reason I have stated."

Is it the pleasure of the Council that permission be granted to Shri V. K. Krishna Menon for remaining absent from all meetings of the Council during its current session?

(No hon. Member dissented.)

MR. CHAIRMAN: Permission to remain absent is granted.