

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EDUCATION (PROF. SHER SINGH) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) The matter was reported to the local Police for investigation in respect of some losses and they have replied that after due investigation, the complaint has been filled as untraced and that the case will be reinvestigated if any clue of the lost stores is found in future. The explanations of the officers concerned in the matter of maintenance, issuance and safe custody of the stores in the National Gallery of Modern Art, from time to time, have been obtained and are under examination. It is also proposed to have a special audit carried out of the stocks of the National Gallery of Modern Art in order to assess the exact loss of stores. If considered necessary, the case will also be reported to the Special Police Establishment for investigation.

#### VACANCIES OF JUDGES IN MADRAS HIGH COURT

1450. SHRI THILLAI VILLALAN : Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) the number of vacancies of Judges at present in the High Court of Madras;

(b) whether there is going to be any additional appointment of Judges in the said Court, if so, how many and when they will be appointed; and

(c) what is the reason for the delay in filling up the vacancies and also the new appointments, if any ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI VIDYA CHARAN SHUKLA) : (a) to (c) The Question of appointment of two judges in Madras High Court is under consideration.

#### RECHARGING OF USED BATTERIES OF CARAVELLE AIRCRAFT

1451. SHRI Z. A. AHMAD : Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that Shri J. D. Naidu an electrician of the Indian Airlines has invented a new process for recharging the used batteries of the Caravelle Aircraft;

(b) if so, whether this new process has been tested and found satisfactory;

(c) whether the recharged batteries have been used by Caravelle Aircraft for their flights;

(d) if so, how these batteries worked;

(e) whether it is a fact that this invention has not been officially recognised so far by the Indian Airlines; and

(f) if so, what are the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION (DR. KARAN SINGH) : (a) to (f) Shri Naidu, a mechanic in the Indian Airlines, claimed to have devised a method for reconditioning and re-building "SAFT" batteries used on Caravelle aircraft. His claim was fully investigated but it was not considered safe to use such re-built batteries on aircraft. It is, in fact, contrary to the normal aeronautical practice to use re-built batteries on aircraft as battery failure can cause total power failure thereby endangering the safety of the aircraft. These re-built batteries were tried out for use on ground equipment but their performance was unsatisfactory. However, Shri Naidu was given two advance increment in appreciation of the initiative shown by him.

#### TALKS ON ABOLITION OF PRIVY PURSES

1452. SHRI Z. A. AHMAD : Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to refer to the reply to Starred Question No. 65 given in the Rajya Sabha on the 24th July, 1968 and state :

(a) whether Government have invited the representatives of the ex-rulers to hold further talks on abolition of privy purses;

(b) whether Government have taken a final decision in regard to the abolition of privy purses and other privileges of the ex-rulers; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI VIDYA CHARAN SHUKLA) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) The Government have taken a decision in principle to abolish privy purses and privileges of the Rulers. The measures necessary for the implementation of the decision including details of transitional arrangements are being worked out.