

Antarctica Study Centre

4044. SHRI MANGARAJ MALLIK: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have set up/propose to set up an Antarctica Study Centre and to acquire ice Breakers under the Antarctica Research Programme; if so, the details thereof; and

(b) when the next expedition to Antarctica is proposed to be undertaken?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (PROF. M.G.K. MENON): (a) Yes, Sir. An Antarctic Study Centre is being set up to provide a national back-up for the Indian Antarctic Research Programme. The Centre is being organised to fulfil the following objectives;

- (i) to formulate national scientific programmes in Antarctica, and to provide logistic support for their organisation and implementation including Indian expeditions to Antarctica;
- (ii) to develop specialised laboratory facilities required to support Antarctic Research Programmes; and
- (iii) to create a repository of Antarctic samples, data and literature, and to catalyse and sustain multi-disciplinary research.

At present, there is no proposal to acquire an ice Breaker for the Antarctic Research Programme.

(b) The next expedition to Antarctica, which would be the tenth one, would sail from India in the third week of November, 1990.

Rashtriya Sanskrit Sansthan

4045. SHRI DALPAT SINGH PARASTE: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Rashtriya Sanskrit Sansthan and the autonomous body of the Sansthan are empowered to award degrees; and

(b) if so, under which authority?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI CHIMANBHAI MEHTA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Under Rule 12 (e) of Memorandum of Association the Rashtriya Sanskrit Sansthan has the power to award degrees.

Defence Recruitment Teams

4046. SHRI ABDUL SAMAD: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the places visited by Defence recruitment teams during the year 1989-90, with the dates of the visit, zone-wise;

(b) the catchment area for each such place in terms of districts or parts thereof;

(c) the number of jawans recruited during each visit;

(d) the composition of the recruitment teams; and

(e) the number of registered applicants at each recruitment office as on 1 April, 1989 and 1 April, 1990?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (DR. RAJA RAMANNA): (a) and (b). The information is given in the statement-I. [Placed in Library See No. LT-1549/90]

(c) The Recruitment Teams are concerned with the screening of documents, checking physical measurement, carrying out physical efficiency tests and medical examination. The actual recruitment is finalised by the Branch Recruitment Office/Zonal Recruitment Office after a candidate has qualified in the written examination and has secured a place in the merit list. It is not in the public interest to divulge information regarding the recruitment done.

(d) The Recruitment Team, which is called "Board of Officers", comprises:

- (1) BRO, of the rank of Colonel.
- (2) BRO staff, consisting of Recruiting Medical Officer and Assistant Recruiting Officer.
- (3) Two independent members detailed by the nearest Army Formation Headquarters.

(e) The information is given in the Statement-II. [Placed in Library. See No. LT-1549/90]

Unpublished Correspondence of Gandhiji

4047. SHRI L.V. SINGH: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news item appearing in "The Times of India" dated 19 August, 1990 captioned "The letter versus the spirit";

(b) if so, whether Government propose to declare all the correspondence of Gandhiji as a national treasure and acquire the same as national heritage from all known sources, Indian or foreign, if necessary, at a suitable price; and

(c) the steps proposed to catalogue,

preserve, and make these valuable works of Father of the Nation available to all those who want to learn and derive inspiration from his thought and message?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE
MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DE-
VELOPMENT (SHRI CHIMANBHAI
MEHTA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) At present there is no proposal to declare the correspondence of Gandhiji as a national treasure. Efforts were made to acquire some collections of Gandhiji's correspondence which were not available in India either in original or in published form. For example, more than 250 letters of correspondence between Gandhiji and Kallenbach were acquired at a cost of Rs. 27.26 lakhs from an auction conducted by Sotheby's on 18.12.1986. Another 80 letters of Gandhiji to Henry Polam were acquired at a cost of Rs. 41.27 lakhs in an auction conducted by Sotheby's on 22nd July, 1988. Both these lots were considered valuable and significant for Indian history and heritage.

(c) Gandhiji's papers available with the National Archives of India and the Nehru Memorial Museum & Library are properly catalogued and Reserved for scholars and the public to view and consult.

Separate University for Mizoram

4048. DR. C. SILVERA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether any request has been received from state Government of Mizoram for setting up of a separate University for Mizoram;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the action taken by Government thereon?