

Shri Shree Narayan Das: May I know whether indications are available that there is a gang of persons who operate throughout the country for stealing such articles from other museums also?

Dr. M. M. Das: There have been some attempts to commit thefts of this kind from which we can surmise that perhaps a gang is operating.

Shri Shree Narayan Das: What steps have been taken to stop this?

Dr. M. M. Das: The police have been informed and they are taking suitable steps.

Shri Shyam Lal Saraf: May I know whether such cases have come to notice before also where such costly images have been broken and taken away and sold in some foreign country and what steps have been taken to safeguard so that this may not recur?

The Minister of Scientific Research and Cultural Affairs (Shri Humayun Kabir): A number of different steps have been taken. There were certain complaints, especially from the Madhya Pradesh area, last year or the year before. Recently, there has been no recurrence of such complaint which suggests that the action taken is adequate. We do not want to mention all the measures, because that would, to some extent, defeat the very purpose of taking such action. Everything possible is being done, but, it is not possible altogether to rule out thefts. Even with the best possible measures, thefts do occur occasionally, but we take the best measures that we can.

Assam Natural Gas

*94. **Shri Hem Barua:** Will the Minister of Mines and Fuel be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Britain has enquired as to whether Government of India are prepared to enter into an agreement for 15 years for the supply of liquefied natural gas from Assam Oil fields;

(b) if so, whether Government accepted the offer; and

(c) if so, on what terms?

The Minister of Mines and Fuel (Shri K. D. Malaviya): (a). No, Sir.

(b) and (c). Do not arise.

Shri Hem Barua: May I know whether it is a fact that Assam gas has the advantage of being the cheapest in the world, and if so, why Government have not tried to explore the possibilities in the world market?

Shri K. D. Malaviya: There is no gas available for export. All the gas that is available is committed to certain schemes which have been projected and are under way. Perhaps, within the next two or three years, all the gas that will come out in the Assam oil-fields will have been utilised by industry. There will then be no gas left for export.

Shri Hem Barua: May I know whether the gas that is available there has to be burnt out, because Government could not come to a decision whether the utilisation of this gas should be in the private sector or the public sector?

Shri K. D. Malaviya: May I invite my hon. friend Shri Hem Barua to come and have discussion with me, so that I can explain to him the position in respect of all these questions which he has been repeatedly asking, with regard to low pressure gas being flared up and the high pressure gas being utilised by certain industries and so on? I think that a personal discussion will clarify the position much more.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

Banaras Hindu and Aligarh Muslim Universities

*82. **Shri E. Madhusudan Rao:** Will the Minister of Education be pleased to state:

(a) whether any decision has since been taken in regard to the deletion