

The Minister of Education and Natural Resources and Scientific Research (Maulana Azad): (a) A statement is laid on the Table of the House. [See Appendix VII, annexure No. 7.]

(b) The selection of candidates will be made by the Selection Board constituted by Government for the purpose.

EXCAVATIONS AT AHICHATRA

***1416. Shri Raghuraj Sahai:** Will the Minister of Education be pleased to state:

(a) whether the excavation work at 'Ahichatra' near Aonla in District Bareilly (U.P.) has been completed;

(b) if so, whether any report of the work done has been issued;

(c) the conclusion to which Government have arrived as a result of the excavations made at Ahichatra?

The Minister of Education and Natural Resources and Scientific Research (Maulana Azad): (a) The Excavations work at Ahichatra has been completed to the extent that is necessary to get an idea of the history of the site.

(b) A summary of the results of the excavations was published in 'Ancient India' No. 1. A complete report on the pottery was also published in the same number of the Journal and a report on the terracotta figurines was published in No. 4 of the Journal.

(c) The excavations revealed that the site was under continuous occupation from 300 B.C. or earlier to 1100 A.D.

SHOOTING PRACTICES

***1417. Shri N. L. Joshi:** Will the Minister of Defence be pleased to state:

(a) whether the practice of cleaning the fields after the shooting practice by the Military soldiers is continuing;

(b) will the Government give the figures of loss of life and injury to the person and property of the citizens due to this shooting practice during the last financial year;

(c) was any compensation paid by Government for the above loss during the last financial year;

(d) if so, how much and to whom?

The Minister of Defence (Shri Gopalaswami): (a) Yes.

(b) to (d). I lay a statement on the Table of the House. [See Appendix VII, annexure No. 8.]

EXCAVATIONS AT SISUPALGARH

***1418. Pandit Lingaraj Misra:** Will the Minister of Education be pleased to state:

(a) what is the up-to-date expenditure by the Archaeological Department on the excavations at Sisupalgarh (Orissa), separately on (1) the work itself and on (2) the supervisory Staff;

(b) whether the excavations, so far conducted, have yielded sufficient data to reach a definite conclusion as to the age of the Fort;

(c) if not, do Government propose to resume further excavations and, if so, when the work is expected to be resumed?

The Minister of Education and Natural Resources and Scientific Research (Maulana Azad): (a) A sum of Rs. 79,589/11/3 was spent on the excavations at Sisupalgarh of which Rs. 77,275/1/3 was spent on the work itself and the balance on the pay of the supervisory staff engaged specifically for the purpose.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

AUDIT OF EMBASSIES ABROAD

***1419. Shri K. C. Sodhia:** Will the Minister of Finance be pleased to state:

(a) the present arrangements for the audit of accounts of our Embassies and Missions abroad;

(b) the number of Auditors so employed;

(c) the authority under which these Auditors work; and

(d) whether their reports are received periodically?

The Minister of Finance (Shri C. D. Deshmukh): (a) The Accounts of the High Commissioner for India in the United Kingdom including the India Stores Department are audited by the India Audit Office in London which has been in existence for several decades. This office has recently been conducting a few local inspections of the Embassies in Europe. The accounts of the Indian Embassy in Washington including the India Supply Mission are audited by the India Audit Office, Washington, which was established a few months ago. All