

Entry Fee for Historic Monuments

1290. SHRI N. K. SANGHI: Will the Minister of EDUCATION, SOCIAL WELFARE AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether entry fee for the historic monuments of national interest is controlled by Archaeological Survey of India;

(b) if so, whether recently the entry fee to Taj Mahal has been raised to Rs. 2/- from 50 paise by the State Government without consulting the Archaeological Survey of India; and

(c) whether other State Governments will also be permitted to augment their financial resources on the basis of the Taj Mahal precedent and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF EDUCATION, SOCIAL WELFARE AND CULTURE (PROF. S. NURUL HASAN): (a) Yes, Sir. Under the Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Sites and Remains Act, 1958, the Central Government is empowered to levy entrance fee at protected monuments.

(b) The Archaeological Survey of India has not raised the entrance fee for the Taj Mahal. It is, however, understood that the U.P. Government is collecting some other levy, the precise nature of which is being ascertained.

(c) The Central Government is advised that it alone is competent to charge entrance fee from visitors to monuments of national importance. There is at present no proposal to allow any State Government to levy such fee.

Bank Loan to Tamil Nadu Students for pursuing Studies

1291. SHRI N. K. SANGHI: Will the Minister of EDUCATION, SOCIAL WELFARE AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether arrangements have now been made whereby Bank loans will be made available to Tamil Nadu

students to pursue their under-graduate, post-graduate and even foreign studies;

(b) if so, the salient features of the scheme formulated in this connection; and

(c) when the facilities will be made applicable in regard to students of other States? -

THE MINISTER OF EDUCATION, SOCIAL WELFARE AND CULTURE (PROF. S. NURUL HASAN): (a) to (c). The public sector banks have introduced Educational Loan Schemes in order to finance indigent students of merit going in for Graduate and Post-Graduate studies in selected disciplines in India and abroad. The Schemes have been implemented not only in Tamil Nadu but also in other States. The loans are given at liberal rates of interest and at easy schedule of repayment. The amount of loan varies from course to course and from Bank to Bank ranging from Rupees five thousand to Rupees fifteen thousand.

Clearing of Foodgrains and Fertilizers at Kandla Port

1292. SHRI S. R. DAMANI: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND IRRIGATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to a news item in a daily paper dated the 27th June, 1976 that the entire Kandla Port was chocking with foodgrains and fertilizers as on 26th June, 1976 because of failure on the part of F. C. I. to move them from the port;

(b) whether the Port authorities proposed to levy a "dead wharfage" charge on this account; and

(c) what are the reasons, when these stocks were cleared and what amount was paid to the Port authorities under (b) above?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND IRRIGATION (SHRI ANNASAHIB P. SHIDE): (a) and (b). Yes, Sir.