

vided to ensure that the advantages under this scheme are not appropriated by women who are relatively better off or by others by way of benami transactions.

(c) The scheme has been implemented only recently. As such it is too early to assess the achievements.

Seizure of Precious Antiques from East Delhi

10803. SHRI H.N. NANJE GOWDA:
SHRI SOMNATH RATH:
SHRI UTTAM RATHOD:

Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether about 40 precious antiques, some dating back to the Bronze Age, were seized by the police from a godown in East Delhi.

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether some persons have been arrested in this connection;

(d) if so, the action taken against them, and

(e) what further steps Government propose to take to unearth antiques from the hidden places?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF EDUCATION AND CULTURE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI L.P. SHAHI) : (a) and (b). Nine objects comprising 8 stone and one wooden sculptures, stylistically datable from about 1st-2nd century A.D to medieval period, were seized from G-12, Ganesh Nagar by the East Delhi Police. These include a three headed figure, a panel carved with divine figures and a Chaitiya, a lady with a child, a Nagini, an Ek

Mukha Linga, images of Brahma and a form of Vishnu, a figure of Hanuman and a standing Christian sculpture.

(c) and (d). Yes, Sir. One person has been arrested.

(e) The agencies of the Government are exercising vigilance and taking action in this regard.

Conferring More Powers on State Governments

10804. DR. PHULRENU GUHA: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Union Government propose to confer more powers on the State Governments to control environmental pollution and also to impose stringent penalties on defaulters;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the time by which it would be done?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI Z.R. ANSARI) : (a) to (c) The Central Government has conferred various powers on the State Governments to control environmental pollution under the Water (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1974 the Air (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1981 and the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986. Parliament has recently passed the Air (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Amendment Act, 1987 (No. 47 of 1987) which has amended the Principal Act conferring more powers to the State Pollution Control Boards for effective implementation of the Act. Penalty provisions of the Principal Act have also been amended to provide for stringent penalties to violators.

2. Important provisions of the Air