

(e) There is considerable stagnation in the grade of Junior Engineers and most of the seniors are non-graduates. Fixation of a quota for graduates will make their position still worse. The Government is interested in promoting suitable and meritorious Junior Engineers. In its view, merit rather than educational qualification should be the consideration for promotion.

Removal of Semi-precious stones from Taj Mahal

4499. SHRI ANANT DAVE:
SHRI SHIV SAMPATI RAM:

Will the Minister of EDUCATION, SOCIAL WELFARE AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether on the day of Sharad Purnima on the 27th October, 1977 a number of semi-precious stones were removed from the lower facade of Taj Mahal; and

(b) if so, the facts thereof and the reaction of Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF EDUCATION, SOCIAL WELFARE AND CULTURE (DR. PRATAP CHANDRA CHUNDER):

(a) and (b). Yes, Sir, on the night of the 26th of October 1977 when thousands of people visited the Taj, some thirty inlay pieces were found freshly removed. The matter was immediately reported to the Police and the case is now under investigation. Steps to prevent the recurrence of such damage will be taken in consultation with District and Police authorities.

Cheap and Durable Houses in Rural Areas

4500. SHRI RUDRA SEN CHAUDHURY: Will the Minister of WORKS AND HOUSING AND SUPPLY AND REHABILITATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have under their consideration any scheme

for construction of cheap and durable houses in rural areas; and

(b) if so, the outlines thereof?

THE MINISTER OF WORKS AND HOUSING AND SUPPLY AND REHABILITATION (SHRI SIKANDAR BAKHT): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Though Housing and Urban Development Corporation has no scheme for direct construction of cheap and durable houses in rural areas, it has introduced a scheme to provide loans to the agencies for construction of houses in the rural areas. Loans under this scheme will be available for the construction of low cost houses with unit cost not exceeding Rs. 4000. The Corporation will provide loan to the extent of 50 per cent of the cost of a project, the balance being found by the construction agencies from their own sources which can be in the form of allottees' own contribution, in cash or kind, subsidy and/or loan from the State Governments. All the State Governments have been requested to take advantage of this scheme.

A scheme for putting up clusters of demonstration houses alongwith environmental improvement was approved by the Government of India as a Fifth Plan Scheme. Under this scheme, grant-in-aid for putting up demonstration houses, each costing less than Rs. 3000, is made available to each of the 7 Rural Housing Wings which are functioning under the aegis of the National Buildings Organisation. The houses to be constructed are intended for landless workers and economically weaker sections of the society, residing in rural areas.

The National Buildings Organisation has evolved a type-design of a house for rural landless workers to whom housesites have been allotted. This modest house having one room, a separate room for cooking and a platform can be constructed at a cost of less than Rs. 1500 with self-help using sundried brick walls with water-proof mud plaster and thatch roofing with fire-

retarding treatment. If the walls are made of burnt bricks and tile roof is adopted, the cost of this house is estimated to be not more than Rs. 2000 when built through self-help.

Cultural Exchange Programme Relating to Libraries and Archives

4501. SHRI K. RAMAMURTHY: Will the Minister of EDUCATION, SOCIAL WELFARE AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the names of the two librarians, two archivists, and two museologists sent abroad during the past three years under the Cultural Exchange Programmes relating to Museums and libraries;

(b) the countries with which we have such an Exchange Programmes; and

(c) the total expenditure incurred on this Exchange visit during the past three years?

THE MINISTER OF EDUCATION, SOCIAL WELFARE AND CULTURE (DR. PRATAP CHANDRA CHUNDER): (a) The following librarians, archivists and museologists were sent abroad under cultural exchange programmes during the three years 1975 to 1977.

(i) Librarians

1. Shri D. R. Kalia, Director, Central Secretariat Library, New Delhi.

2. Shri Dhani Ram, Librarian Grade I, Central Secretariat Library, New Delhi.

(ii) Archivists

1. Dr. S. N. Prasad, Director National Archives of India, New Delhi.

2. Shri P. S. Moideen, Archivist, National Archives of India, New Delhi.

3. Smt. A. Verma, Archivist, National Archives of India, New Delhi.

(iii) Museologists

1. Dr. P. Banerjee, Assistant Director, National Museum, New Delhi.

2. Dr. V. P. Dwivedi Deputy Keeper, National Museum, New Delhi.

3. Dr. N. R. Banerjee, Director, National Museum, New Delhi.

4. Dr. Narinder Nath, Deputy Keeper, National Museum, New Delhi.

5. Shri O. P. Sharma, Deputy Keeper, National Museum, New Delhi.

6. Shri B. N. Tandon, Chemist, National Museum, New Delhi.

7. Dr. G. N. Pant, Senior Technical Assistant, National Museum, New Delhi.

8. Shri N. K. Ogale, Head Modeller, National Museum, New Delhi.

(b) USSR, Afghanistan, France, Iran, Federal Republic of Germany and Mexico.

(c) The expenditure incurred on the visits of persons mentioned at (a) above was Rs. 65,484/-.

Winding up of Central Fishery Corporation

4502. SHRI SHYAMAPRASANNA BHATTACHARYYA:
SHRI KRISHNA CHANDRA HALDAR:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE & IRRIGATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have decided to wind up the Central Fishery Corporation Limited, Howrah, on the plea of losses;

(b) if so, whether it is also a fact that the Corporation actually never took up various activities out of 24 objectives in the memorandum of Association viz. deep-sea fishing, installation of plants for cold storage,