

(d) and (e). A provision of 1.81 lakhs has been made for a building or the Zoological Survey of India in the budget for 1953-54.

(f) and (g). The Zoological Survey of India was shifted from Calcutta to Banaras in February, 1942 during World War II because of the danger of specimens preserved in spirit catching fire in the event of a successful air attack.

#### अज्ञात पनडुब्बी

१५१५. श्री रघुनाथ सिंह: (क) क्या इसका मंत्री यह बतलाने की कृपा करेंगे कि क्या भारतीय समुद्र में चार बार एक अज्ञात पनडुब्बी देखी गई है जो किसी जहाज को पास आते देख कर भाग जाती है?

(ख) क्या सरकार का विचार इस पनडुब्बी का पता लगाने का है?

The Minister of Defence Organisation (Shri Tyagi): (a) No such report has been received.

(b) Does not arise.

#### KORIES AND KHATIKS

1516. Shri B. N. Kureel: Will the Minister of Home Affairs be pleased to state:

(a) whether Kories and Khatiks who previously belonged to the Scheduled Castes have now been excluded from their Scheduled Castes List in some States;

(b) whether these excluded Kories and Khatiks are still being given same facilities as to the Scheduled Castes; and

(c) if so, the details of the facilities given to them?

The Deputy Minister of Home Affairs (Shri Datar): (a) Yes.

(b) and (c). The State Governments have been told that such administrative practices in the matter of concessions to backward classes as were in force before the issue of the President's Orders may continue to be followed unless they are inconsistent with any other provision of the Constitution.

#### PERCENTAGE OF BLIND PEOPLE IN INDIA

1517. Shri Buchhikotiah: Will the Minister of Home Affairs be pleased to state:

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(a) whether it is a fact that the percentage of blind people in India is comparatively high;

(b) whether their number has been increasing or decreasing during the last four years; and

(c) whether any steps are being taken by Government to minimise their number?

The Deputy Minister of Home Affairs (Shri Datar): (a) and (b). Attention is invited to the reply given to Shri Hukam Singh's Starred Question No. 1104 on the 11th December 1952, in which it was stated that information regarding the number of blind people in India was not collected at the 1951 Census and, therefore, it was not possible to make a comparison with other countries of the world.

(c) Does not arise.

#### SUN TEMPLE AT KONARAK

1518. Shri S. C. Samanta: (a) Will the Minister of Education be pleased to state whether the Archaeological Chemist visited the Sun Temple at Konarak?

(b) If so, when and how many times?

(c) What chemical preservation research work has been done up-to-date?

The Minister of Education and Natural Resources and Scientific Research (Maulana Azad): (a) Yes.

(b) Twice in 1952 and once in 1953.

(c) Experiments were directed towards stabilizing the decaying stone-surface, to protect the treated surface by the application of a suitable coating and to eradicate algal growth.

#### 'BARGABHIMA TEMPLE'

1519. Shri S. C. Samanta: Will the Minister of Education be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that the most ancient 'Bargabhima Temple' of Buddhistic age at Tamluk in the District of Midnapur in West Bengal is in a dilapidated condition; and

(b) if so, whether any archaeological survey has been made?

The Minister of Education and Natural Resources and Scientific Research (Maulana Azad): (a) The temple is not an ancient one and is not a monument of national importance protected by the Central Government.

(b) No.