

Shifting of Naval Academy from Cochin

1858. SHRI M. RAMANNA RAI: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any truth in the news that the Naval Academy is being shifted from Cochin to some other place;

(b) if so, the reasons for this; and

(c) is it a fact that Kerala Government have offered other sites also besides Cochin for this purpose?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI C. P. N. SINGH): (a) and (b) The Naval Academy is at present located within the Naval Base at Cochin. Following the need for augmentation of training facilities, a proposal has been under consideration to locate the Academy in a more suitable place. The Government of Kerala have offered some sites in this regard and the matter is still under consideration.

(c) Yes, Sir.

Sale of Raj Bhavan Building by Gujarat Government

1859. SHRI RAMJIBHAI MAVANI: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Gujarat Government has sold out the Raj-Bhavan building in token price of one rupee to a trust whose chairman is former Chief Minister of Gujarat,

(b) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the report about this published in prominent Gujarat daily "Gujarat Samachar" on 5th March, 1980;

(c) whether it is a fact that the building of Raj Bhavan in Ahmedabad was built by Mogul Emperor Jahangir and late Shri Ravindranath Tagore written a poem "Hungry Stone" when he was staying in this building; and

(d) whether Archaeological Department had given permission to sell the said building to the private trust?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI YOGENDRA MAKWANA): (a) In accordance with the decision of the Government of Gujarat in August 1979 possession of the erstwhile Raj Bhavan Building at Ahmedabad has been transferred by way of sale to the Sardar Vallabhbhai Memorial Society at Ahmedabad but the sale has not yet been effected in as much as the sale price of Rs. 57.23 lakh have not yet been paid by the Society nor has a sale deed been executed so far.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) This building was constructed in 1622 AD by prince Khurram (who later became Emperor Shahjahan) during the reign of Jahangir. The monument is also reported to have inspired Rabindranath Tagore in writing "The Hungry Stone".

(d) No, Sir.

Issue of licence to coir mat looms in Kanyakumari and Tamil Nadu

1860. SHRIMATI SUSHEELA GOPOLAN: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) there is a move to issue licence to mechanised coir mat looms in Kanyakumari, Tamil Nadu which has been suspended since it will adversely affect the hand loom sector;

(b) whether Government are aware that it will throw out thousands of workers from the handloom sector;

(c) whether Government are aware that the decision to allow mechanised looms is a violation of Coir Board decision; and

(d) whether Government proposed to take steps to ban the mechanised mat looms in Coir Industry?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY