

(b) if so, when the Committee is likely to submit its report ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF EDUCATION AND SOCIAL WELFARE AND IN THE DEPARTMENT OF CULTURE (SHRI D. P. YADAVA) : (a) and (b). Yes, Sir. But the Committee has not yet started work. It will be some time before the Committee would submit its report.

Proposal to Start Air Taxi Service

3767. **SHRI JADEJA :** Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is any proposal under consideration of Government to start Air Taxi Service in the country ;

(b) if so, whether the scheme will be in public sector or private sector ; and

(c) if the reply to part (a) above be in the negative, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION (DR. SARAJINI MAHISHI) : (a) and (b). The question of allowing private operators to establish air taxi services on routes not operated by Indian Airlines, particularly for promotion of tourism in various parts of the country, is under examination.

(c) Does not arise.

Unsatisfactory Conditions for Displaying and Preserving Ancient Monuments in National Museum, New Delhi

3768. **SHRI JADEJA :** Will the Minister of EDUCATION AND SOCIAL WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the report appearing in the "Statesman" dated the 31st March, 1971 in regard to the unsatisfactory conditions prevailing in the National Museum, New Delhi for displaying and preserving the ancient monuments ; and

(b) if so, the steps taken by Government in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF EDUCATION AND SOCIAL WELFARE AND MINISTER OF DEPARTMENT OF CULTURE (SHRI SIDDHARATHA SHANKAR RAY) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) A statement is laid on the Table of the Lok Sabha.

Statement

The report made in the Statesman dated 31-3-1971, regarding the National Museum is factually incorrect.

The National Museum has a large and varied collection representing Art, Archaeology, Anthropology, Pre-history, Central Asian Antiquities, Pre-Columbian Art, Numismatics, Epigraphy and so forth.

The National Museum has made adequate arrangements for conservation. Its Central Conservation Laboratory attends mainly to the needs of the Museum in addition to its service in general to several other Museums in the country.

The Museum has a large collection of miniature paintings and drawings, but obviously all of them cannot be displayed at one time. The main reason is paucity of gallery space. Only representative miniatures of each school have been displayed. The quality of display in the National Museum is of a high order and it has won appreciation from visitors.

Notwithstanding the paucity of space, the Central Asian Antiquities have two galleries of their own, in addition to a large annexe for the mural paintings in an adjacent building.

As for the building and its construction is concerned the first phase was completed in 1960. The second phase was to have come up as scheduled some years ago, but due to the financial stringency this could not be taken up earlier. The second phase of the building, however, is now expected to be completed during the Fourth Five Year Plan.

Special attention is paid to objects which have a tendency to suffer deterioration, like wood, textiles and so forth. Anti-termite treatment is given regularly to the susceptibles and if even a trace of the termite is noted, it is imme-

diately treated with anti-termite solutions.

Museum objects like coloured textiles, polychrome sculptures, paintings and other objects deteriorate to a smaller or larger extent by the use of natural light. Natural light contains the visible spectrum bands and adjoining its two ends are the bands of ultra-violet and infrared, both of which are harmful. They are, therefore, to be eliminated. This is precisely the reason why all the museums abroad have adopted artificial lighting.

The C. P. W. D. is making arrangements to instal the necessary air-conditioning plant and other equipment. Even now the reserve collections manuscripts are kept in cool storage by a special provision of coolers.

The burglar-proof alarm system for the National Museum has not been recommended by the (Dr. M. S.) Randhawa Committee which considered this question.

The National Museum has already issued several popular publications, apart from its scholarly monographs.

Although there is a slight decrease in the number of visitors to the National Museum during the last two years, the number of organised school visits to the Museum has increased considerably.

There are no structural defects in the National Museum building.

Proposal to Construct a Second Bridge at Jamnagar

3769. SHRI JADEJA: Will the Minister of SHIPPING AND TRANSPORT be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is only one bridge known as Victoria Bridge which connects the Jamnagar City with the rest of the country ;

(b) if so, from the defence point of view and the strategic importance of the city, whether Government propose to construct a second bridge at Jamnagar ; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY

AFFAIRS, AND SHIPPING AND TRANSPORT (SHRI RAJ BAHADUR) : (a) Yes, Sir. It is an existing rail-cum-road bridge near amnagar on Rajkot-Jamnagar road.

(b) The proposed second bridge at Jamnagar, when constructed, would fall on a State road. The Government of Gujarat, who are primarily concerned with the said bridge have indicated that they have a proposal to construct the bridge in question.

(c) Does not arise.

Ex-Gratia Payments to Officers of Public Undertakings

3770. SHRI SUBODH HANSDA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Bureau of Public Enterprises issued instruction to all Ministries of the Government of India, vide their O. M. No. BPE/1 (5) Adv. (Fin) 67 dated 23. 6. 1970 for ex-gratia payment to senior officers of public sector undertakings drawing a salary of more than Rs. 1600/- per month ;

(b) the exact implications of the instructions that for the purpose of computing the ex-gratia payment, the salary would be deemed to be Rs. 1600/- p. m. irrespective of the actual salary ;

(c) whether all the officers of an enterprise, which has declared bonus at the rate of 20 per cent in terms of the Bonus Act 1965, are entitled to a bonus of Rs. 1800/-irrespective of the actual salaries drawn ; and

(d) if so, the actual amount of bonus paid by such public sector undertaking to officers drawing Rs. 1600/- and above in the year 1970-71 ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI K. R. GANESH) : (a) Bureau of public Enterprises have issued instructions which allow for the ex-gratia payment to officers of the Public Enterprises drawing more than Rs. 1600/- per month provided—

(i) the enterprises has been earning profits ;

(ii) the payment is made from the "Employer's share of available surplus of 40%"