

Cultural Affairs be pleased to state:

(a) the particulars of finds from excavations undertaken at Belirajgarh in Darbhanga district during 1962-63;

(b) whether the excavation is continuing or will be continued further during 1963-64;

(c) whether any, and if so, what steps have been taken to preserve the finds there;

(d) whether it is proposed to build a museum; and

(e) the names of the important sites in that place which are to be taken up for excavation?

The Deputy Minister in the Ministry of Scientific Research and Cultural Affairs (Dr. M. M. Das): (a) Northern Black Polished ware and red ware sherds, terracotta figurines, beads of semiprecious stones, copper coins, bone objects and terracotta plaques etc.

(b) The excavation will be continued during 1963-64.

(c) The finds are with the Archaeological Survey of India and will be preserved.

(d) No, Sir.

(e) The rampart wall of the fort of Balirajgarh which is important from the point of view of construction of forts in the centuries before the beginning of the Christian era.

Secondary Education in Madras

197. Shri Shree Narayan Das: Will the Minister of Education be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Government of Madras have decided to make secondary education free for all children;

(b) if so, the precise nature of proposals of the State Government in this regard;

(c) whether the Central Government have been in any way associated with the proposal; and

(d) if so, the nature of such association?

The Minister of Scientific Research and Cultural Affairs (Shri Humayun Kabir): (a) and (b). No intimation to this effect has been received from the Government of Madras.

(c) and (d). Do not arise.

Discount Rate to I.O.C. Dealers

198. Shri A. V. Raghavan: Will the Minister of Mines and Fuel be pleased to state:

(a) whether the margin of profit allowed to dealers of Indian Oil Company is less as compared to the margin of profits allowed by private companies;

(b) if so, whether there is any proposal to revise the rate of discount to the Indian Oil Company dealers; and

(c) whether there is any difference in price of petrol and diesel oil sold by Indian Oil Company and other private companies?

The Minister of Mines & Fuel (Shri Alagesan): (a) and (d). It is not in the commercial interest of the Indian Oil Company to disclose this information.

(c) No.

Cultural Agreement with Afghanistan

{ Shrimati Renuka Barkataki:
199. { Shri Rameshwar Tantia:
 { Shri Sidheshwar Prasad:

Will the Minister of Scientific Research and Cultural Affairs be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that while on his recent tour to Afghanistan, a cultural agreement was signed with the Afghan Government by him on behalf of the Government of India;

(b) if so, the details of the agreement; and

(c) how long will the agreement be valid?

The Minister of Scientific Research and Cultural Affairs (Shri Humayun Kabir): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) To strengthen the relations between the two countries by promoting cultural, educational and scientific exchange; by arranging concerts, lectures, art and scientific exhibitions, by organising visits of scholars and students; by encouraging collaboration between learned societies; by establishing chairs in universities and other institutions of higher learning; by dissemination of information through books and periodicals; by exhibition of films; by exchange of archaeological specimens and through radio broadcasts; by arranging sports competitions and by collaboration between Scouts and Guides Organisations.

(c) The agreement will come into force on the date of exchange of the instruments of ratification, and remain in force for a period of five years, and thereafter until the expiration of six months from the day on which one of the Contracting Parties shall give notice of its intention to terminate the Agreement

M. V. Andamans

200. { Shrimati Savitri Nigam:
Shri Maheswar Naik:

Will the Minister of Home Affairs be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that over 70 passengers lodged common complaints in the ship's official complaint book during Culcutta|Port Blair voyage of M. V. Andamans between 18th and 23rd July, 1963; and

(b) if so, the action Government propose to take to redress bunk passengers' difficulties and grievances?

The Minister of State in the Ministry of Home Affairs (Shri Hajarnavis): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Remedial measures, wherever necessary, were taken by the shipping

Corporation of India; except in one complaint which is under examination.

Government Higher Secondary School in Port Blair

201. { Shrimati Savitri Nigam:
Shri Maheswar Naik:

Will the Minister of Education be pleased to state:

(a) the number of students who appeared in the Higher Secondary Examination 1963 from Government Schools at Port Blair, Andaman Islands;

(b) the number of students who passed the examination; and

(c) the reasons for poor pass percentage?

The Minister of Scientific Research and Cultural Affairs (Shri Humayun Kabir): (a) 42.

(b) 12.

(c) Wrong choice of Science subject by students, difficulty in getting qualified teachers and suitable books from the mainland, gap in school session and examination, etc.

Passenger Fares in Ships in Andamans

202. { Shrimati Savitri Nigam:
Shri Maheswar Naik:

Will the Minister of Home Affairs be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Andaman and Nicobar Islands' Administration has recently enhanced passenger fares by 15 per cent for travel by Government ships plying between the mainland and the Islands; and

(b) the reasons for increasing the bunk fare which was previously Rs. 35 only to Rs. 41 while the new fare worked out to Rs. 40.25 nP. only.

The Minister of State in the Ministry of Home Affairs (Shri Hajarnavis): (a) Yes.