

THE MINISTER OF TRANSPORT AND SHIPPING (PROF. V. K. R. V. RAO): (a) to (c). A 12" cutter suction dredger has been built by Messrs Brunton and Company in their yard at Cochin in collaboration with Messrs I. H. C. Holland, at a cost of about Rs. 24.10 lakhs for supply to the Government of Kerala for use in their minor ports. The trials of the dredger are scheduled to commence on the 29th April 1968. This is not the first dredger to be built in India as dredgers have been built in the past indigenously in collaboration with foreign concerns.

Cyclone Warning Station, Madras

8686. SHRI C. CHITTYBABU: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that a Cyclone Warning Station is proposed to be set up at Madras ;

(b) the total expenditure likely to be incurred on the scheme ; and when it is likely to be set up ;

(c) whether Government are getting any aid from any foreign country for the purpose and if so, from which country ; and

(d) the capacity of the radar system to be installed at this station ?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION (DR. KARAN SINGH):

(a) and (b). A scheme for the setting up of a Cyclone Warning and Research Centre at Madras and installation of storm-warning radars at various stations on the east and west coasts of India, was included in the draft Fourth Plan of the India Meteorological Department. It has not however been possible to take it up so far due to non-availability of funds. According to the latest assessment, the total expenditure on the scheme is estimated at Rs. 240.67 lakhs over a period of four years.

(c) No, Sir, not for this scheme.

(d) The range of the radar is 400 kilometres.

Theft in Salar Jung Museum, Hyderabad

8687. SHRI H. N. MUKERJEE :
SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES :

Will the Minister of EDUCATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether the attention has been drawn to certain articles in "Anticorruption" weekly of Hyderabad in January, 1968 regarding the alleged theft of exhibits in Salar Jung Museum ;

(b) whether the allegations against certain officials of the Museum made therein have been examined ; and

(c) the steps, if any, taken in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EDUCATION (SHRI SHER SINGH): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c). The loss of art objects from the Salar Jung Museum was referred to the local Police as well as to the Central Bureau of Investigation. The Central Bureau of Investigation have recently suggested departmental action against two employees of the Museum. The Salar Jung Museum Board is being asked to take action in this behalf as the disciplinary authority. The Salar Jung Museum Board appointed a high power Committee to examine the various allegations against the Director and other officers. According to the Report of the Committee the allegations were not in effect charges against the Director and other officers but are in the nature of bringing to the notice of administration certain lacunae in the rules. The existing Security arrangements have been tightened. The Board has appointed a Sub Committee to review the rules and to reinforce these arrangements a full time Security Officer has been appointed.

Ajanta-Ellora Frescoes

8688. SHRI H. N. MUKERJEE : Will the Minister of EDUCATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to an article in "Indian and World Events" (Delhi) of March 17, 1968 entitled "Ajanta-Ellora Frescoes on the verge of ruin" ;

(b) whether it is a fact that all the site museums under the Archaeological