

(b) Does not arise.

(c) and (d). The runway at Porbander is barely suitable for DC-3 type of aircraft. In view of the fact that the Indian Airlines are going to replace DC-3 by HS-748, and also in consideration of the importance of Porbandar, a proposal to re-construct the runway to the requirements of HS-748 is under consideration. In the meantime, in order that traffic in connection with the Gandhi Centenary Celebration Year (1969) may not be disrupted, the existing runway as well as the fair-weather air-strip have been repaired to sustain DC-3 operations for the time being.

Repair of Keshod and Porbander Airstrips

4508. SHRI VIRENDRA KUMAR SHAH : Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that the Keshod and Porbander airstrips were recently reopened to traffic after prolonged closure for extensive repairs;

(b) whether it is also a fact that it was originally planned to introduce 'AVRO' planes at the above airstrips after they were repaired;

(c) whether it is further a fact that the repairs carried out are not satisfactory, especially at the Keshod airstrip, which has necessitated the postponement of the original for introduction of 'AVRO' planes; and

(d) if so, the steps proposed to be taken to bring about an improvement in the conditions of the airstrips ?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION (DR. KARAN SINGH) : (a) The aerodromes at Keshod and Porbandar were closed only for about 3½ months and 1½ months respectively for essential repairs.

(b) to (d). The existing runways at Keshod and Porbandar are suitable only for DC-3 aircraft and have been repaired from time to time to maintain these operations. Now, in view of the projected introduction of HS-748 in replacement of DC-3 on this route, a proposal to re-construct

these runways to meet the new requirements is under consideration. In the meantime, the runways have been repaired to sustain the existing DC-3 operations. The Indian Airlines will be in a position to introduce the HS-748 aircraft only when they receive additional aircraft from HAL as their existing fleet of HS-748 is fully committed on other sectors.

Facility for Learning Bengali language in Primary Schools at Dineshpur, District Nainital (U.P.)

4509. SHRI K. HALDER : Will the Minister of EDUCATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether the children of the refugees from East Bengal, who have settled at Dineshpur, District Nainital, have the facility of learning Bengali language in primary school;

(b) if so, how many primary schools are there for this purpose; and

(c) whether Bengali language is also being taught in Higher Secondary Schools ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EDUCATION (SHRI BHAGWAT JHA AZAD) : (a) to (c). Information is being collected from the State Government and will be laid on the Table of the Sabha.

Excavation work at Ratangiri (Orissa)

4510. SHRI BAIDHAR BEHERA : Will the Minister of EDUCATION be pleased to state :

(a) Whether it is a fact that the excavation work at Ratnagiri in Orissa has been completed since 1960;

(b) if so, when the detailed report of the antiquities excavated at the site will be published and placed on the Table of the House;

(c) the progress so far made in connection with the establishment of a museum at Ratnagiri; and

(d) the amount earmarked therefor and the time when the work is likely to start ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EDUCATION (SHRI SHER SING) : (a) Yes Sir, the last season of work was 1960-61.

(b) The detailed report on the excavations is under preparation and will be published as early as possible. Summary-reports for each season of work (1957-58, 1958-59, 1959-60 and 1960-61) have been published in "Indian Archaeology-A Review" for these respective years.

(c) The site for locating a museum at Ratnagiri has already been selected and the estimate for the construction of the museum-building is also ready.

(d) The work is included in the draft IV Plan, and pending final approval of its inclusion in the Plan, no specific amount has been earmarked for it.

Removal of Sculptural Pieces from Konarak Temple

4511. SHRI BAIDHAR BEHERA : Will the Minister of EDUCATION be pleased to state :

(a) how many cases of unauthorised removal of sculptural or other architectural pieces from the Konarak temple have been recorded since the Independence;

(b) how many pieces of sculptures have been removed from Konarak by the Archaeological Survey of India for various purposes and whether all of them have been returned to the nearby site Museum or any other action has been taken in respect of them;

(c) whether the Government of Orissa presented any memorandum to him in the Konarak temple on the 30th October, 1968 and, if so, the action taken on various points mentioned therein; and

(d) whether the recent theft case involving a foreigner at Konarak has been brought to the notice of Government and, if so, the action taken in the matter ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EDUCATION (SHRI SHER SINGH) : (a) Two cases of unauthorised removal of loose sculptures from the dump outside the Konarak compound will have been recorded since Independence.

(b) In all 17 pieces had been removed by the Archaeological Survey of India, out of which 10 are with the National Museum,

while others have been returned to the Konarak Museum.

(c) Yes, Sir. The various proposals contained in the Memorandum are being examined.

(d) Yes, Sir. The matter was reported to the police and the sculpture was also recovered.

हिन्दी परीक्षाओं को उचित मान्यता देना

4512. श्री राम सिंह अग्रवाल : क्या शिक्षा मन्त्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) क्या साहित्य रत्न, विशारद, शास्त्री तथा आचार्य परीक्षाओं और हिन्दी तथा संस्कृत विद्यापीठों और इन परीक्षाओं को आयोजित करने वाली शिक्षा संस्थाओं से प्राप्त स्नातक की उपाधि को आधुनिक विश्वविद्यालयों से प्राप्त स्नातक उपाधि के समकक्ष मान्यता प्राप्त की गयी है और यदि हाँ, तो उन्हें सरकारी नौकरी प्राप्त करने में कठिनाई होने के क्या कारण हैं; और

(ख) क्या यह सच है कि उक्त हिन्दी परीक्षाओं और स्नातकों की ओर ध्यान नहीं दिया जाता है और क्या इन तथ्यों को ध्यान में रखते हुए सरकारी सेवाओं के बारे में समान नियम बनाने का सरकार का विचार है ?

शिक्षा मन्त्रालय में राज्य-मन्त्री (श्री शेर सिंह) (क) और (ख). स्वच्छिक संस्थाओं द्वारा संचालित हिन्दी और संस्कृत की परीक्षाओं का भारत सरकार द्वारा दी गई मान्यता के संबंध में स्थिति निम्न प्रकार है :

हिन्दी परीक्षाएं :

देश के विभिन्न भागों में अनेक स्वच्छिक हिन्दी संस्थाएं काफी समय से हिन्दी परीक्षाएं चला रही हैं। इन परीक्षाओं में उत्तीर्ण उम्मीदवारों को ऐसी सरकारी नौकरियों के लिये पात्र बनाने के लिये जिनमें अन्य बुनियादी योग्यताओं साथ हिन्दी की योग्यताएं