

(c) the names of the countries which are likely to participate with the number of participants of each country and other salient features of the Festival ?

THE MINISTER OF EDUCATION AND YOUTH SERVICES (DR. V.K.R.V. RAO): (a) The Comex India, a non-Government body, propose to organise a Commonwealth Youth Festival at New Delhi in September, 1969.

(b) Approximately, an amount of Rs. 2 lakhs is proposed to be spent on the festival by the organisers. The Festival will not involve any expenditure in terms of Foreign exchange, in so far as India is concerned.

(c) About 500 students from the Commonwealth countries of Australia, Ceylon, Canada, U.K., Kenya, Malaysia Mauritius, New Zealand, Nigeria, Ghana, Singapore, Tanzania and Uganda, studying in 20 British Universities, are expected to participate besides the Indian students. In addition, the neighbouring countries particularly Afghanistan, Burma, Indonesia, Iran, Kuwait, Nepal, Thailand and U.A.R. have also been invited by the organisers to send participants to the Festival. The salient features of the Youth Festival would be dramas, folk dances, folk songs, discussions etc.

Air Trips undertaken by Chairman I.A.C.

1746. **SHRI HARDAYAL DEVGUN:**
SHRI YAJNA DATT SHARMA:
SHRI JAI SINGH:

Will the Minister of **TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION** be pleased to state:

(a) whether the trips undertaken by the Chairman Indian Airlines Corporation have been on the complimentary tickets given to him by the other foreign airlines or at the invitations of some organisation;

(b) if there were no account of complimentary tickets, the number of such complimentary tickets issued by the Indian Airlines Corporation and the Air India to their counterparts or other persons or bodies during the last three years separately; and

(c) if these were on the basis of invitations, the names of the organisations who had extended him the invitations, the purpose of his visits and the break-up of the expenditure incurred in terms of foreign exchange on this trips?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION (DR. KARAN SINGH): (a) to (c). The information is not readily available, and is being collected.

Thefts of Paintings from Jaipur Museum

1747. **SHRI YAJNA DATT SHARMA:**
SHRI HARDAYAL DEVGUN:
SHRI JAI SINGH:
SHRI N. SHIVAPPA:
SHRI P. C. ADICHAN:
SHRI MEETHA LAL MEENA:
SHRI BHAGABAN DAS:

Will the Minister of **EDUCATION AND YOUTH SERVICES** be pleased to state:

(a) the progress made in the investigation being carried on in respect of thefts of paintings belonging to Jaipur Museum which were smuggled out to USA; and

(b) the action taken against the culprits?

THE MINISTER OF EDUCATION AND YOUTH SERVICES (DR. V.K.R.V. RAO): (a) and (b). The theft of about 1700 paintings placed in 46 albums, from a store room in the City Palace, Jaipur was detected on 11.1.69. Jaipur police have succeeded in recovering 452 paintings from different places. 440 among them have been identified as the property of the City Palace. These include 55 paintings recovered from the house of Shri Sangram Singh, Director, City Palace Museum, Jaipur. It is reported that Shri Sangram Singh has sold 37 paintings to a foreigner. These paintings were recovered on 23.4.69, from an airlines office when they were about to be transferred to U.S.A. Shri Sangram Singh and his associate Shri Madan Singh Nimbi were arrested and later released on bail. On the 24th July, 1969 searches were conducted at Delhi, Bikaner and Calcutta and 156 paintings, 3 photographs and 1 manuscript were seized from

Delhi and Bikaner. These are suspected to pertain to the Jaipur theft case. The result of the searches in Calcutta is still awaited. Further investigation is in progress.

Charges Alleged Budget Tampering and Misconduct against N.D.M.C. President

1748. SHRI HARDAYAL DEVGUN:
SHRI YAJNA DATT SHARMA:
SHRI JAI SINGH:

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a Member of Parliament has addressed to him a letter detailing charges of budget tampering and misconduct against the President of the New Delhi Municipal Committee sometime in the last week of May, 1969;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether any enquiry into the matter has been conducted by Government; and

(d) if so with what results?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI VIDYA CHARAN SHUKLA): (a) to (d). A letter was received from Dr. Bhai Mahavir, containing certain allegations against the President, New Delhi Municipal Committee, relating to tampering with the minutes of meetings discourteous behaviour towards fellow members etc. The matter was looked into carefully. The President, NDMC, has been advised that whatever the provocation one should remain cool and courteous under all circumstances. There was no evidence to support the charge of tampering with the minutes.

Republic Day Awards (1969)

1749. SHRI YAJNA DATT SHARMA:
SHRI HARDAYAL DEVGUN:
SHRI JAI SINGH:

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to refer to the reply given to Starred Question No. 1753 on the 16th May, 1969 regarding the Republic Day awards and state:

(a) the names of persons, who were recommended by the Lt. Governor and the Chief Executive Councillor of Delhi, for being given the Republic Day awards and the names of persons which were approved for the award by the Central Government and names of those persons who were dropped and in their place other names were included;

(b) the reasons why Government had to change the names suggested by the Lt. Governor and the Chief Executive Councillor; and

(c) the names of other Union Territories and States where similar changes in the names suggested by the respective Union Territories or states had been made giving details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI VIDYA CHARAN SHUKLA): (a) and (b). Delhi Administration is not the only authority to make recommendations for Padma Awards in respect of the persons residing in Delhi but a number of other authorities can and do make such recommendations. Hence, persons resident in Delhi who were awarded Padma decorations on the Republic day 1969 included certain persons recommended by the Lt. Governor/Chief Executive Councillor, Delhi and other persons recommended by other authorities. Grant of award to resident of Delhi not recommended by the Administration cannot, therefore, be construed as substitution of names recommended by Delhi Administration.

A large number of persons are recommended every year by various sponsoring authorities but in the very nature of things, it is not possible to accept all the recommendations. The procedure, manner of selection and the principles followed in awarding Padma Awards are of secret nature and it will not be in public interest to disclose the names of persons recommended or considered for the awards or the names of persons or authorities who sponsored the names of particular individuals.

(c) There is no question of making changes in the names suggested by any authority including Union Territories or