

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS : (SHRI VIDYA CHARAN SHUKLA) : (a) and (b). A memorandum was sent to the Prime Minister by the representatives of the Buddhists of Ladakh in April last mentioning some of their grievances. The memorandum has been forwarded to the Jammu and Kashmir Government for necessary action.

Scholarships to Students of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes and other Minority Communities

981. SHRI ABDUL GHANI DAR: Will the Minister of EDUCATION AND YOUTH SERVICES be pleased to state :

(a) how many students received scholarships or other financial aid from Government during the last three years, and the amount sanctioned to each, year-wise ; and

(b) the percentage of students belonging to the Scheduled Castes and other minority communities benefited under this Head in each year ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EDUCATION AND YOUTH SERVICES (SHRI BHAKT DARSHAN) : (a) and (b). The information is being collected and will be laid on the table of the House when received.

Deciphering of Indus Script

982. SHRI SAMAR GUHA : Will the Minister of EDUCATION AND YOUTH SERVICES be pleased to refer to the reply given to Unstarred Question No. 4666 on the 28th March, 1969 and state :

(a) whether the Archaeological Survey of India has written to the Department of Indology, University of Copenhagen for detailed information regarding the report on deciphering of the Indus script ;

(b) if so, when ;

(c) whether any reply has been received, and if not, whether Indian Embassy there has been asked to make direct contact with the Department of Indology, University of Copenhagen ; and

(d) if so, the details thereof ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF EDUCATION AND YOUTH SERVICES (SHRIMATI JAHANARA JAIPAL SINGH): (a) and (b). Yes, Sir, on 1.3.49 and on 10.3.69.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) A statement giving details is attached.

Statement

1. The Finnish Scholars are of the view that the bearers of the Indus Civilization were most probably Dravidians. Among the factors leading to this view, the most important, according to them, was the iconography of the Indus Seals. The three faced horned deity, has been identified by them with the national war-god, Murugan. Tree worship and other features of the Indus Civilization have been compared with religion of modern India and the matrilineal succession in south India has been connected with a similar type of succession envisaged in the Indus Civilization.
2. These scholars also feel that there was a prominent astral aspect in the religion of the Indus people. They have attempted to show that the proto-Dravidians primarily worshipped the stars, notably the planets as god and that astronomy and astrology occupied a prominent place in the Indus Civilization. Shiva has been identified with planet Mars and Krishna with Saturn.
3. The script is described to be logosyllabic making use of syllable signs as well. Phonetic complements have also been used. The language been shown to be Proto-Dravidian. According to the Finnish scholars, the script was invented on the model of earlier writing from the Sumerian Civilization of Mesopotamia. The results of their researches have been published in :

- (i) Decipherment of the Proto-Dravidian inscription of the Indus Civilization, Special Publication No. 1
- (ii) Progress in the Decipherment of the Proto-Dravidian Indus script Special Publication No. 2.
4. Though no special team was found to examine the findings of the Finnish Scholars, a few Indian scholars offered their comments through press on the various aspects of the attempts made by the Finnish Scholars and also by the two Indian scholars who claimed to have deciphered the Indus script recently. The salient points of these comments, relating to the Scandinavian claims are given below :—
- (a) The arguments of the Finnish scholars to prove their assumptions are not altogether convincing. Ultimately the Dravidian basis can only be convincingly proved if the language is found to be proto-Dravidian.
- (b) To use the language as a basis to determine the race of the people of the Indus Civilization seems to be un-scientific.
- (c) If the script is proto-Dravidian, why did the script disappear whereas the language continued to be used? When did the speakers of this language migrate to the peninsula and by which route?
- (d) There is internal inconsistency in the decipherment—especially in the crucial stage of projecting these mantic component and assigning meanings to the graphs.
- (e) Modern Dravidian languages place the case suffix *before* number suffix whereas the languages deciphered by the Finns give case suffix *after* the number suffix.

- (f) The argument about the three successive literary academies of ancient Tamil is inconsistent, for it would take Tamil literature back to ninth millennium B. C. which is against all known evidence.

The success of the Finnish Scholars would be assessed only when reading of full inscriptions is announced which is yet to be done.

Development of Kandla Port

983. SHRI D. R. PARMAR : Will the Minister of SHIPPING AND TRANSPORT be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that a Conference for the development of Kandla Port was held at Delhi during May, 1969 ;

(b) If so, the details of the Resolutions passed therein for the development of Kandla Port and free trade Zone ; and

(c) the reaction of Government thereto ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE DEPARTMENT OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS, AND IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING AND TRANSPORT (SHRI IQBAL SINGH) : (a) Yes.

(b) and (c). The Conference decided to set up a Committee under the Chairmanship of the Secretary, Ministry of Shipping and Transport and including the representatives of the Gujarat State Government, Chambers of Commerce and the concerned Ministries to examine the various problems relating to Kandla Port in detail and to suggest remedies. The report of this Committee is awaited.

Netaji Museum in Delhi

984. SHRI SAMAR GUHA : Will the Minister of EDUCATION AND YOUTH SERVICES be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government propose to set up a Netaji Museum in Delhi in order to preserve the unique revolutionary heritage of Netaji for the nation ; and

(b) if so, when ?