

ESTIMATES COMMITTEE
(1967-68)

FIFTH REPORT
(FOURTH LOK SABHA)

MINISTRY OF EDUCATION

- (i) Indian Museum, Calcutta**
(ii) Victoria Memorial Hall Museum, Calcutta.



LOK SABHA SECRETARIAT
NEW DELHI

June, 1967/Jyaishta, 1889 (Saka)

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C_O_R_R_I_G_E_N_D_A
TO

Fifth Report (Fourth Lok Sabha) of
Estimates Committee on the Ministry
of Education - (i) Indian Museum,
Calcutta; and (ii) Victoria Memorial
Hall Museum, Calcutta;

- Page 8, line 22, for 'organisation' read 'organisational'.
Page 16, line 10, for 'Authropological' read 'Anthropological'.
Page 23, line 34, for 'Lebelling' read 'Labelling'.
Page 24, line 19, for 'subduced' read 'subdued'.
Page 29, line 37, for 'Elucation' read 'Education'.
Page 34, line 1, for 'inaugation' read 'inauguration'.
Page 53, line 16, for 'researchs' read 'research'.
Page 56, line 28, for 'deteriorates' read 'deteriorate'.
Page 56, line 34, delete 'will'.
Page 65, line 18, for 'Departments' read 'Department'.
Page 67, line 37, for 'books' read 'book'.
Page 69, statement, for '961-62' read '1961-62'.
Page 89, line 15, for 'fassils' read 'fossils'.
Page 93, line 31, for 'Publicity Publication' read 'Publicity/Publication'.
Page 94, line 9, for 'Museum' read 'Museums'.
Page 97, line 3, delete 'will'.
Page 98, line 46, add 'of' after 'exhibit'.

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ESTIMATES COMMITTEE

(1967-68)

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Shri K. D. Chatterjee—*Under Secretary.*

INTRODUCTION

I, the Chairman, Estimates Committee, having been authorised by the Committee to submit the Report on their behalf, present this Fifth Report on the Ministry of Education—(i) Indian Museum, Calcutta; and (ii) Victoria Memorial Hall Museum, Calcutta.

2. The subject was examined by the Estimates Committee (1966-67) and necessary information obtained and evidence taken by them. That Committee, however, could not finalise their Report due to the sudden dissolution of the Lok Sabha on the 3rd March, 1967. The Estimates Committee (1967-68) have perused the minutes of evidence and have come to their own conclusions which have been embodied in the Report.

3. The previous Committee (1966-67) took evidence of the representatives of the Ministry of Education, Indian Museum, Calcutta and Victoria Memorial Hall Museum, Calcutta on the 28th September, 1966. The Committee wish to express their thanks to the Joint Secretary, Ministry of Education, Director of the Indian Museum, Calcutta and Curator and Secretary of the Victoria Memorial Hall Museum, Calcutta and other Officers of the Ministry of Education, Indian Museum, Calcutta and Victoria Memorial Hall Museum, Calcutta for placing before them the material and information they wanted in connection with the examination of the estimates.

4. They also wish to express their thanks to Dr. T. N. Ramachandaran, Joint Director-General of Archaeology (Retired) and Dr. (Mrs.) Grace Morley, Adviser on Museums, Ministry of Education for giving evidence and making valuable suggestions to the Committee.

5. The Committee also wish to thank Numismatic Society of India, Varanasi; Prof. D. P. Ghosh, President, Museums Association, West Bengal; Director, Prince of Wales Museum, Bombay; Curator, Mysore Government Museum, Bangalore and Director, Museums & Zoos, Trivandrum for furnishing Memoranda to the Committee.

6. The Report was considered and adopted by the Committee on the 9th May, 1967.

7. A statement showing the analysis of recommendations contained in the Report is also appended to the Report (Appendix IX).

NEW DELHI;
June 7, 1967

Jyaistha 17, 1889 (Saka)

P. VENKATASUBBAIAH,
Chairman,
Estimates Committee.

CHAPTER I

INDIAN MUSEUM, CALCUTTA

A. Genesis and Functions

Historical Background

The origin of the Indian Museum, Calcutta can be traced back to 1814, when Dr. Nathaniel Wallich, a Danish Botanist proposed to the Asiatic Society, founded in 1784, the formation of a Museum, offering to act as its Honorary Secretary and to provide the nucleus through the duplicates of his own personal collection. The proposal accompanied by the generous offer met with ready response from the members of the Society which formulated a scheme to establish the Museum in two Sections, one comprising of the archaeological, ethnological and technical matters, and the other, of Geological and Zoological, with Dr. Wallich as the first Superintendent of the latter.

2. The scope and jurisdiction of the Museum was laid down in the widest possible terms. It was to be an institution meant "for the reception of all articles that might be sent to illustrate oriental manners and history, or to elucidate the peculiarities of Art or Nature in the East."

3. The Museum remained under the control of the Asiatic Society upto the formation of the Board of Trustees in 1865. With the enactment of Indian Museum Act of 1866, the Society made over its entire collection to the Board of Trustees. A building was sanctioned and created on a separate piece of land and the Society was paid a compensation for its claim to accommodation in the Museum Building which was now made available exclusively for its own purpose as a separate institution. It was, however, not until 1875 that the Museum Building came to be completed and ready for occupation. It was on the 1st April, 1878 that the galleries were thrown open to the public for the first time with the Zoological and the Archaeological Galleries. Gradually the other Sections, viz. Geology, Botany, Art and Anthropology were added.

4. By successive Acts of Legislature, the Board of Trustees was reconstituted from time to time. After the initial Act of 1866, it was followed by those of 1876 and 1887, raising the number of 13 to 16 and then to 21. In 1910, the figure was fixed at 17. One of the very important changes introduced by the Act of 1910 was to make the

heads of all the different Sections of the Museum a Trustee-*ex-officio* and reducing the number of representatives from the Asiatic Society to one from five, as laid down by the previous Acts of 1876 and 1887, and allowing instead three Public Bodies, such as, the University of Calcutta, the Bengal Chamber of Commerce and the British Indian Association to elect a Member each on the Board.

5. Between 1904 and 1911, fresh additions of new wings both for gallery purposes and for study and administrative accommodation, as well as for meeting the needs of a lecture hall, were completed. From the administrative point of view apart from the Art Section, the remaining five Sections, Zoology, Geology, Economic Botany, Archaeology and Anthropology were under the administrative control of the respective Surveys of the Government of India while the Board of Trustees remained as custodian.

6. The Collections of the Indian Museum are vast and varied. They started in their various branches from different sources of acquisition, and later on, got augmented by equally varied sources, sometimes very curious. The zoological collection, for example, with the possessions of the Asiatic Society as its nucleus was further enriched by a collection of specimens gathered by the Surgeon-Naturalists on board the Surveyship 'Investigator', from the depths of the Indian seas. The other interesting sources were a number of political and military expeditions along the northern and eastern Frontiers of the then Indian Empire, from as early as 1868, wherein almost invariably a zoologist, a doctor or a naturalist, sometime from amongst the Museum officials, were deputed to accompany; but by far the largest contributions came from the private donors, notable among whom being Ferdinand Stoliczka*

*Dr. Ferdinand Stoliczka joined in the Geological Survey of India as Palaeontologist in 1862. As a staff of the Geological Survey of India, he carried out expedition to the north-west Himalayas to collect mesozoic and Palaeozoic fossils as well as to work out the structure of this very interesting region. Dr. Stoliczka also continued the unfinished work of H.T. Blanford on "the Cretaceous Fauna of Southern India" in successive volumes from 1865 to 1873.

Dr. Stoliczka was the first naturalist to give an adequate description of the internal anatomy of a sea-anemone. He was a pioneer in the study of Indian archaeology. Recognising the scientific needs of India, Dr. Stoliczka presented in many invaluable collections he made in the East to the Asiatic Society's Museum or later, to the Indian Museum, to which he bequeathed the specimens in his possession at the time of his death.

and William Blanford.** Almost similar sources also helped to build up the collection in the geological section, except for the fact that the collection grew quicker on account of its larger contingent of scientific staff. For the archaeological section, the Asiatic Society gave statues, smaller sculptures, inscriptional records and coins collected by the members of that learned body and presented to it from all parts of this sub-continent long before the Indian Museum came into being. The collection of industrial objects similarly started with the specimens of industrial arts collected by the members of the Asiatic Society and most of these were transferred to the Museum after 1883-84. In the ethnological collections which were at one time under the economic section, the items include weapons, implements, clothing and the various other articles used by the various Indian tribes and races, and life-size models of the various ethnic types of the Indian people together with a collection of Javanese weapons and a set of Indian musical instruments presented by the late Raja Sir Sourindra Mohan Tagore.

7. In 1960 the Indian Museum Act (Act 45) was passed by Parliament which sought to reconstitute the older Board of Trustees of the Indian Museum, installing the Governor of West Bengal as its *ex-officio* Chairman, with provisions for Rules and Bye-laws which would conform to the pattern obtainable in the Union Government Bodies. It was thus that the Indian Museum virtually obtained the status of a National Museum for the eastern region in the country.

**Mr. William Blanford of the Geological Survey of India joined the Survey in 1855 from the Royal School of Mines, London.

As a successful Geologist, Mr. Blanford was admitted as Fellow Geologist, carried out Surveys and prepared geological maps of Telcher Coal-field (1858-60), Narmada Valley, Deccan Trap, Rajputana (1876), Sind (1877), Northern Baluchistan, Southern Afghanistan (1881-82) etc. He was appointed as the Deputy Superintendent of the Geological Survey of India in 1862.

As a Zoologist, he is best known in connection with the official series "Fauna of British India", the inception of which was due to his untiring efforts. To this series, he himself contributed the Volume on the mammals and two of the four Volumes on birds. He was one of the most active agents in the foundation of the Indian Museum as a Government institution and also in the negotiation connected with the first Zoological work of the "Investigator". His private collections, gathered together in the course of his geological works in Persia and Abyssinia and in the Central Provinces, Orissa and other parts of India were distributed to the Indian Museum.

8. By now, the activities of the Indian Museum, not only as a store-house of the largest collection of materials, Indian, and, to some extent, trans-Indian, but also as a body corporate to fulfil its mission of promoting study and research in the respective fields of its six Departments, had become far-flung. Monographs, catalogues and Guide—Books have appeared, apart from the Annual Reports telling the story of its year to year development and output in the field of acquisition, administration, preservation and research.

The Committee, however, note that the Indian Museum Act, 1910 (as amended by Act 45 of 1960) makes no mention about the objectives of the Museum. The Committee hope that an early opportunity would be taken to define the basic objectives of the Indian Museum by a Government Resolution so that the Museum could be developed on proper lines. The Committee also feel that it is time that the Indian Museum is given the formal status of a National Museum and all consequential steps taken in this direction.

B. Organisational Set-up

Board of Trustees

9. The administration of the Indian Museum is vested in the Board of Trustees under the Indian Museum Act X of 1910 (As amended upto 1960), with a Museum Directorate. A number of Committees, viz. Finance Committee, Visiting Committee, Selection Committee and Committee of Management have been set up to assist the Board in carrying out its functions. From time to time, *ad hoc* Committees are also appointed by the Board to go into any special problem or make any suggestions on any special matter.

The present constitution of the Board of Trustees of the Indian Museum may be seen at Appendix I. Powers of the Trustees regarding property vested in them and to exchange, sell and destroy the articles in collections have been laid down in Sections 6 and 7 of the said Act which are enumerated below:

- “6. (1) All the property, whether movable or immovable, which at the commencement of this Act is held by the Trustees of the Indian Museum constituted by the Indian Museum Act, 1876, on trust for the purposes of the said Museum shall, together with any such property which may hereinafter be given, bequeathed, transferred or acquired for the said purposes, vest in the Trustees of the

Indian Museum constituted by this Act on trust for the purposes of the said Museum:

Provided that the Trustees may expend the capital of any portion of such property which may consist of money on the maintenance, improvement and enlargement of the collections deposited in, presented to or purchased for, the said Museum or other-wise for the purposes of the same as they may think fit.

(2) The Trustees shall have the exclusive possession, occupation and control, for the purposes of such trust, of the land specified in the schedule, including any buildings which may have been, or may hereafter be, erected thereon, other than those portions thereof which have been set apart by the Trustees for the records and offices of the Geological Survey of India."

"7. Subject to the provision of any bye-law made in this behalf, the Trustees may, from time to time,—

- (a) deliver, by way of loan, to any person the whole or any portion of, or any article contained in, any collection vested in them under this Act;
- (b) exchange or sell duplicates of articles contained in any such collection and take or purchase, in the place of such duplicates, such articles as may in their opinion be worthy of preservation in the Museum;
- (c) present duplicates of articles contained in any such collection to other Museums in India; and
- (d) remove and destroy any article contained in any such collection."

The number of meetings of the Board of Trustees held during the 2nd and 3rd Plan periods were as follows:—

2nd Plan Period—69 (During this period the previous Bye-laws provided for meetings every month).

3rd Plan Period—22 (After the amendment of the Indian Museum Act, the number of meetings was automatically restricted).

The number of persons attending each of these meetings may be seen at Appendix II. The duration of each meeting 's stated to be on an average of one hour.

Asked during evidence whether the members of the Board of Trustees have tried to collect any non-official donation or anything like that, the representative of the Indian Museum replied in the negative.

In view of the important role that the Indian Museum has to play for promoting cultural and educational interests of its users, the Committee feel that the Board of Trustees should have a larger representation of educationists, historians, museologists and social scientists. The Committee recommend that the Board should be suitably reconstituted if necessary by amending the Indian Museum Act.

The Committee further suggest that the feasibility of accepting donations from the public for the purpose of enriching the collections of the Museum may be explored. The responsibility also lies on the non-official members of the Board to attract private monetary and/or art donations from philanthropists, art connoisseurs and private donors.

Committees set-up by the Board of Trustees

10. The Committees set-up in the Indian Museum are as follows:

(a) *Committee of Management*: The Committee of Management consists of—

- (i) Head of the Department of Zoology.
- (ii) Head of the Department of Geology.
- (iii) Head of the Department of Botany.
- (iv) Director of the Indian Museum representing the three integrated groups of the galleries of Art, Archaeology and Anthropology.

This Committee meets once in every month to discuss and suggest improvements regarding galleries of the Indian Museum. The recommendations of this Committee are placed before the Board of Trustees for consideration and approval.

(b) *Finance Committee*: The Finance Committee consists of the following:

- (i) Vice-Chairman of the Board of Trustees;
- (ii) Accountant-General of West Bengal;

- (iii) Hony. Treasurer, Board of Trustees;
- (iv) Honorary Secretary, Board of Trustees.

(c) *Visting Committee*: The Visiting Committee is appointed annually by the Board of Trustees at the Annual General Meeting of the Board to suggest and recommend improvement of galleries and the campus of the Museum. The present constitution of the Committee is (i) Shri S. C. Bhattacharyya, Accountant General, West Bengal, (ii) Prof. S. K. Saraswati, representing the Asiatic Society, (iii) Shri S. N. Ray, I.C.S. (Retd.), Honorary Secretary to the Board of Trustees.

(d) *Selection Committee*: The present composition of the Selection Committee is as follows:—

For Class II and Class III appointments:

- (i) Dr. H. Santapau, Director, Botanical Survey of India, Calcutta.
- (ii) Shri P. C. Mukherjee, Director of Public Instruction, Government of West Bengal, Calcutta.
- (iii) Shri S. N. Ray, Honorary Secretary, Board of Trustees, Indian Museum.
- (iv) Shri A. K. Bhattacharyya, Director, Indian Museum.

For Class IV appointments:

- (i) Shri S. N. Ray, Honorary Secretary, Board of Trustees, Indian Museum.
- (ii) Shri A. K. Bhattacharyya, Director, Indian Museum.

It has further been stated that experts are associated with the Committee specially for selection of technical staff as and when necessary.

The number of meetings of Committee of Management, Finance Committee and Selection Committee held during 1963-64 and 1964-65 were as follows:—

	1963-64	1964-65
Committee of Management	1	Every month since July
Finance Committee	4	4
Selection Committee	5	7

Having realised that the Committees set-up by the Board of Trustees especially the Committee of Management and Finance Committee have very important functions to perform, the Committee suggest that the constitution of these two Committees should be more broad-based so as to include representatives from the remaining Departments of the Museum in the Committee of Management and the Director of the Museum in the Finance Committee.

Central Directorate of the Indian Museum

11. With a view to co-ordinate the activities of its many Sections in so far as the galleries and the collections are concerned, the establishment of a Central Directorate of the Museum was envisaged in the amended Museum Act of 1960 itself. Accordingly in 1962 a Director of the Museum was appointed. Way was paved also for the establishment of a few co-ordinating centralised sections viz. Publication Unit, Presentation Unit, Photography Unit, Chemical Unit etc. to help the Directorate in meeting the growing requirements for making the Museum more effectively serviceable to the general public and scholars. The Art Gallery and Anthropology and Archaeology Galleries were integrated and brought under the Directorate of the Museum in 1965.

The Chart showing the organisational set-up of the Museum may be seen at Appendix III. Broadly speaking the organisation set-up of the Museum can be divided into two divisions which are as follows:—

- (i) Administrative Division;
- (ii) Technical Division.

Administrative Division.—Office, Accounts Section, Watch and Ward and Maintenance Branch come under the Administrative Division. The Director on behalf of the Board of Trustees administers the Museum.

Technical Division.—This Division has the following Units/Sections working under the guidance of the Director of the Indian Museum:

A—Co-ordinating Service Units—

- (i) Publication Unit;
- (ii) Presentation Unit;
- (iii) Photography Unit; and
- (iv) Chemical Unit.

B—Educational Service.

C—Library.

D—Galleries—

- (i) Art;
- (ii) Archaeology; and
- (iii) Anthropology.

E—Medical Unit.

The Committee have been informed during evidence that the three remaining Departments viz. Zoology, Geology and Economic Botany are still under the respective Surveys, namely, the Zoological Survey, the Geological Survey and the Botanical Survey. Asked to state why these Departments were not yet transferred to the Museum, the representative of the Ministry of Education stated that "... after these three Departments (Art, Archaeology and Anthropology) which had already been transferred were integrated, we shall take up the question of the other Departments. We thought it would be more advantageous to do the job in stages and do it well". Asked further whether there was any real advantage in transferring these Departments to the Museum when for more than 100 years they were managed by the Government Departments, the representative of the Indian Museum stated that ".....idea of integration was to bring about a general all-round improvement in all these Galleries under a Central Directorate as all these Galleries were a small adjunct to the Surveys and were not properly looked after as they had so many other works to attend to."

The Committee feel that from the point of view of efficient administration and also for the proper development of the Indian Museum, all the departments, units and galleries should be under the same administration. The Government also seem to have realised this when they decided to transfer Art, Archaeology and Anthropology Galleries to the Museum but they retained the Geological, Zoological and Botanical Galleries under the respective Surveys. The Committee feel that this piece-meal integration and dual control has hampered the proper development of the Indian Museum resulting in lack of coordination. The Committee would urge that early steps be taken to remedy the situation.

Details of funds and staff transferred from different Surveys to the Museum

12. In a written note submitted to the Committee by the Indian Museum, it has been stated that the funds available earlier to the

Departments or Surveys have not been transferred to the Museum on integration of the galleries (Art Archaeological and Anthropological) and their collections with the Directorate of the Indian Museum.

The Committee desired to know the details of such funds and the reasons for delay in transferring these funds to the Indian Museum. In reply thereto, the Ministry of Education have stated in a written note submitted to the Committee that, "No transfer of funds as such has taken place from the budget of Archaeological Survey of India or Anthropological Survey of India. Nor is such transfer of funds possible because the budget of the Indian Museum. Calcutta is in one "Demand for Grants" and that of the Surveys is in others. However, in order to cover the additional expenditure on the pay and allowances of staff transferred to the Indian Museum from the Archaeological and Anthropological Sections an amount of Rs. 47,738 was re-appropriated to the budget of the Indian Museum. It took some time to do so because savings from other sub-heads had to be located before the amount in question could be re-appropriated."

So far as the transfer of staff to the Museum is concerned the position has been stated as below by the Indian Museum:

(i) The number of staff exclusively attached to the Galleries in the Anthropological Survey were transferred to the Indian Museum on integration.

(ii) The position of the staff in the Archaeological Section which was exclusively meant for and was doing the work of the Archaeological Galleries in the Archaeological Survey is explained in the statement at Appendix IV showing those transferred and those not transferred to the Indian Museum.

The Ministry of Education has further supplemented this information in a written note stating that, "when the proposal for the transfer of the two sections was mooted, the Indian Museum indicated only the technical staff of the Surveys to be transferred to it. This staff was duly transferred when the integration of the two sections with the Indian Museum was effected. It was later on that the Indian Museum intimated that the two surveys had not transferred some staff which was indirectly serving these two sections. When the matter was taken up with the Archaeological Survey of India, it was pointed out that the staff in question was looking after many other sections and Site Museums in addition to the transferred sections and as such could not be transferred to the Indian Museum.

"This position has been accepted by this Ministry and it has been decided that whenever the funds of the Indian Museum permit extra posts will be created in the Indian Museum after the requirements of the Indian Museum have been carefully examined by its Board."

The representative of the Indian Museum stated during evidence that, "We got the exhibits, and we got along with them only the curatorial staff and only a portion of the watch and ward staff and not the ministerial or accessory staff or co-ordinating staff like the carpenters, the label writers, the draughtsmen or artists and so on. So, what we have to do in the circumstances is to get work done by wage workers; daily we employ a large number of them, but actually this system has not been very satisfactory." He further added that, "this system was also very costly and had been objected to by Audit".

The Committee do not feel satisfied with the explanation given by the Ministry that the relevant staff could not be transferred as they were doing other work also in addition to looking to the galleries transferred. The Committee feel that the Government should have transferred a portion of the staff when a big load of their work was transferred to the Indian Museum. They also feel that employment of a large number of staff on daily wage basis is more expensive and not very conducive to the efficient working of the Museum. In order to see that the Museum may initiate development programmes on a planned basis, the Committee suggest that after thoroughly examining the staff requirements of the Museum, Government should take immediate steps to meet the demands of the Museum either by transferring some staff from the Surveys or by recruiting new staff.

Galleries

13. The various galleries in the Indian Museum are enumerated as follows:—

Archaeology Galleries:

Maurya	
Sunga	1
Gandhara	1
Kushan	1
Gupta	1
Early Medieval	1
Medieval	1
Late Medieval	1

Trans-Indian	1
(Java & Cambodia)	
Bronze	1
Pre-history	3
Numismatics	1
Architecture	1
Epigraphy	.. 3
	<hr/>
	18
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The total number of objects in the Archaeological collections including those which have been displayed, is 60,252.

Anthropology Galleries:

Tribal & Regional representations	1
Ethnic Groups	1
Dresses & Utensils	1
Musical Instruments	.. 1
	<hr/>
	4
	<hr/>

The total number of objects in the Anthropology collections, including those which have been displayed, is 12,355.

Art Galleries:

Textiles	1
Ivory	1
Nepalese & Tibetan Bronze	1
Metal-ware	1
Ceramics	1
Wood Carvings	1
Nahar Gallery of Oriental Art	.. 1
Paintings	.. 1
Manuscripts	.. 1
	<hr/>
	9
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The number of objects in the Art Galleries, including those which have been displayed, is 12,125.

It was admitted during evidence that physical side of the anthropology has not been developed as the Indian Museum did not get the original materials which were under the Surveys. Asked when it was expected to develop this, the representative of the Indian Museum stated that, "We are trying to develop it. Unless we get the materials from the Anthropology Survey, it may be very difficult to develop it." He further stated in reply to a question that, "In the matter of transference of the collection, the Indian Museum has no say. Actually it was under the negotiation by the Ministry on the one side and by the Survey concerned on the other." Asked whether the Indian Museum has any pre-historic human fossils, the representative of the Indian Museum stated that, "No human relics or fossils are there. But animal relics are there in the Zoological Survey."

The Committee attach great importance to the development of the Anthropological Gallery both on its ethnological and physical sides. They are unhappy to observe that in the Anthropological Galleries the ethnological exhibits predominate and that no effective steps have been taken by the Government for the transference of the original exhibits from the Anthropological Survey to the Indian Museum. The Committee think that the Gallery as it is in the Indian Museum has no justification of being called Anthropological. The Committee are also unhappy that the Indian Museum does not have any pre-historic human fossils even though it is the oldest Museum in the country. The Committee would urge that efforts should be made to develop the physical anthropology unit in the Indian Museum and for that endeavour should also be made to acquire the original fossils of pre-historic human beings and other relevant objects or at least their replicas for display in the Indian Museum.

Guide Lecturers

14. It has been stated by a leading museologist that, "At the Indian Museum, Calcutta only six Guide Lecturers are available at present. It is quite inadequate for catering to the needs of the large museum clientele. At least twelve Guide Lecturers for the vast collections of art, archaeological, anthropological, zoological and botanical (Industrial) Sections are immediately required. There should be at least two Guide Lecturers for each Gallery."

Asked during evidence how many more Guide Lecturers were needed by the Museum for catering to the needs of a large museum clientele properly, the representative of the Indian Museum stated

that, "We have only one for each section. We need three more with one senior Guide Lecturer." In reply to a further question whether the Guide Lecturers possessed the efficiency and outlook to attend to the needs of all types of visitors, *viz.* literate, semi-literate and illiterate, the representative of the Indian Museum stated that the Guide Lecturers could speak in English, Hindi and Bengali and as far as possible the people were given guidance in their own mother-tongue.

The Committee think that a Museum like the Indian Museum cannot serve its purpose without an adequate number of properly trained Guide Lecturers. The Committee suggest that the needs of the Indian Museum, so far as Guide Lecturers are concerned, may be gone into by the Ministry of Education at an early date and, necessary number of properly trained Guide Lecturers be provided.

As the Museum has to cater to all types of visitors with a preponderance of semi-literate or illiterate visitors, the Committee suggest that there should be a re-orientation in the outlook of the Guide Lecturers so that they could educate even the uninformed about the richness of country's hoary past as enshrined in the galleries of the Museum. It should be the responsibility of the Guide Lecturers to explain things to the uneducated in a language that can be understood by a layman. As for the literate or educated visitors, the guidance should be on a higher plane so that they could react aesthetically and intelligently upon the subjects that they see.

Museum Building

15. Asked during evidence whether the building of the Indian Museum which was more than 150 years old was quite safe for the exhibits there, the representative of the Indian Museum stated that, "There are some inherent defects in it, but from the museological point of view, it is well protected, well maintained by the chemicals and other things." He also stated that the roofs of some of the rooms were leaking. In the ground-floor, it was mostly damp. Asked whether the Museum's objects were safe from dampness, the representative of the Indian Museum stated that, "The Archaeological and Geological Sections which are less susceptible to dampness are situated in the ground floor, and the other Sections which are susceptible to dampness are situated in the first and the second floors." He further added that for preserving these exhibits, a Chemical Laboratory was set-up in the Museum in May, 1966 but the work would take a long time.

In a written note submitted to the Committee, it has been stated that the expenditure incurred on the repairs of the buildings during

the Second and Third Plans was as follows:—

Second Plan

1956-57	Nil	
1957-58	Nil	
1958-59	Rs. 12,692.00	(For addition and alterations in the ground floor rooms of the Museum House.)
1959-60	Nil	
1960-61	Rs. 78,100.00	(For conversion of D.C. supply to A.C.)

Third Plan

1961-62	Rs. 17,117.00	
1962-63	Rs. 1,08,199.55	From the year 1962-63 Trustees received the Grants for repairs works and deposit work system was introduced.
1963-64	Rs. 3,41,750.00	
1964-65	Rs. 1,01,355.00	
1965-66	Rs. 79,175.00	Museum's needs for repairs on the average are an amount of Rs. 2,00,000 to Rs. 3,00,000. (cf. amounts in 1963-64 and 1964-65) but owing to reduced Budgetary sanction, there was a forced reduction of the repairs activities in the year 1965-66.

The Committee cannot over-emphasise the importance of proper maintenance of the Museum building which is more than one hundred and fifty years old. The building should be adequately protected against leakage and dampness so that the costly materials housed in the building are not affected. The Committee suggest that the Central Public Works Department may carry out a technical Survey about the condition of the Museum building so that a phased programme for repairs and renovation could be drawn up in the light of the findings. The Committee hope that Government will ensure that the essential and inescapable repair works are not held up due to lack of funds, as this may lead to damage of the valuable exhibits in the museum.

Space available with the Museum

16. It has been represented to the Committee by the Indian Museum that the space available with the Indian Museum at present is not adequate. With the construction of the new-six-storeyed Spirit Building within the Museum campus, some of the administrative blocks of the Anthropology and Archaeology Surveys have been moved to this new building and the space thus vacated has been made available to the Museum. However, a considerable part of the Museum building is still under the occupation of the administrative offices of the Anthropological Survey and the Zoological Survey. The Library of the Zoological Survey occupies, in fact, a part of Gallery space and has not moved to the space on the first floor of the aforesaid new Spirit Building originally earmarked for the Library. A large part of the second floor of the Museum is similarly occupied by the Anthropological Survey. The result has been that the Library of the Indian Museum and the Chemical Section have very little scope for expansion when it grows further. This has also greatly limited the Museum's Gallery and reserve space.

It has further been represented that the Civil Defence Organisation still occupies a large part of the Southern wing of the ground floor of the main Building. The space of the former Pre-history, Egyptian and Epigraphy Galleries are at present under the occupation of the Civil Defence Organisation. The exhibits displayed in these galleries were ordered to be vacated late in 1962 during the Chinese aggression and the whole gallery space was made over to the Civil Defence Organisation under orders of the Government of India, dismantling thereby the costly installations and the valuable exhibits. These exhibits including coin collections were lying stored in packing boxes for long. The coin collection, however, was brought from the Mint where they were deposited, in October 1964 and set up in a new strong room though in a congested manner. The Pre-and Proto-history collections could not be displayed since no hall was immediately available for the purpose. Sometime in early 1965 a hall was made available to the Archaeological Survey, who were then holding the charge of the Pre-and Proto-history collections, after renovation and re-colouring of the hall. The collections were subsequently handed over to the Board of Trustees in September 1965, when due to Pakistani aggression, the hall had to be declared a 'Shelter' against bombing under instructions from the Civil Defence Authorities. It has been stated that a portion of the hall has now been set up with Pre-and Proto-history collections as the Introductory

Gallery to Pre-history. The work is being continued to rehabilitate the collections. A portion has been earmarked for a separate Bay for Egyptian antiquities, followed by a Bay for excavated materials. These Egyptian and excavated materials are also a part of dismantled objects from existing showcases during the time of Chinese aggression. A part of these dismantled materials, the inscriptions, have also been set up as separate Gallery on the first floor of the Museum Building along the corridor.

The Indian Museum have stated that the space occupied by the Civil Defence Organisation when released may be utilised for properly displaying some of the collections of the Museum which are now very much congested and also for setting up new galleries with objects which are at present almost deteriorating in the reserve cellars etc.

The Committee realise the difficulties experienced by the Indian Museum due to lack of adequate accommodation. The Committee feel that some other suitable accommodation should have been requisitioned by the Civil Defence Organisation. The Committee would urge that the portion of the building occupied by the Civil Defence Organisation should be released and handed over to the Museum for its own use, as early as possible.

The Committee would also urge the vacation of the portions of the building which are occupied by different Surveys at an early date. Even this may not be adequate for the proper arrangements and display of the exhibits. So, the Committee suggest that the Government may make a proper study of the question of accommodation for the Museum.

.Stock-taking

17. It has been stated during evidence that so far as the general stores are concerned, the stock verification is done annually; but for antiquities, as is the case in other Museums, the stock verification is done once in five years. Asked whether any case of pilferage has come to notice, the representative of the Indian Museum stated that in 1962 about 10 pieces of silver jewellery of Tibetan origin were stolen. No other case has come to notice.

The Committee need hardly stress the desirability of conducting stock-taking of the antiquities regularly so as to avoid loss or pilferage of rare exhibits. They also feel that security arrangements should be tightened to avoid thefts etc.

C. Acquisition

Purchase of Exhibits

18. The present system of acquisition of art objects is through the Central Art Purchase Committee on which the Indian Museum is represented through its Director. The Director has also been delegated powers by the Board of Trustees to purchase art objects upto a total value of Rs. 2,000 per year directly.

The following acquisitions have been made during the last five years by the Indian Museum:

1964-65

- (1) One leaf from a Jain Mss.
- (2) One sketch. Early Rajasthani.
- (3) Wine cup, Pratapgarh gold gill and inlay.
- (4) Kalighat Pata showing 2 figures.
- (5) Jarano Pata, Midnapore.
- (6) Painting, Hyderabad School.
- (7) One leaf illustrating a Malva painting.
- (8) Baluchar Palla.
- (9) Butidar Banarasi Dopatta with Palla.
- (10) Wooden panel showing Krishna with Gopis vertical.
- (11) Pahari Miniature Painting.
- (12) Largo Kangra Painting—illustration from Bhagavata Purana.
- (13) Kantha, Bengal.
- (14) One leaf from a Jain Mss.
- (15) One Painting of Badshah Md. Shahjore.
- (16) Kangra Painting—Vatapratrasayi Narayana.
- (17) Murder of Salar Jung by Amar Singh (oblogy), Late-Mughal, C. 1780.

1965-66

- (1) 421 old Indian coins.
- (2) One painting, Jodhpur School.
- (3) Old Tibetan Thanka with figure of Dakini.
- (4) Old Tibetan Thanka with figure of Hayagriva.
- (5) Old Tibetan Thanka with figure of Beg-tse.

- (6) One stone sculpture of Vishnu.
- (7) Aurangabad Butidar.
- (8) Patala.
- (9) Chamba Rumal, Krishna and Radha.
- (10) Chamba Rumal, with figure.
- (11) Basholi Painting, Krishna.
- (12) Basholi Painting, King.
- (13) Bronze figure of Vishnu from Sujan Pur Tra.
- (14) 10 gold coins purchased from National Defence Fund.

The amounts provided/expended for the acquisition of art objects during each of the last 5 years have been stated to be as follows:—

Year	Budget proposals submitted by the Indian Museum under the head "Acquisition of Art objects during the last 5 years	Actual amount sanctioned by Govt.	Actual expenditure incurred on Art objects during the last 5 years	Percentage of expenditure incurred on acquisition of Art objects to the total expenditure during the last 5 years
	Rs.	Rs.		
1961-62	20,000/-	200,000/-	—	—
1962-63	20,000/-	—	—	—
1963-64	—	—	—	—
1964-65	—	—	15,907	11%
1965-66	5,00,000/-	—	14,777/-	10%

The Committee regret to note that no acquisitions were made by the Indian Museum during the year 1961-62. The Committee need hardly emphasise that the acquisition of art objects is one of the major functions of a Museum and unless this function is performed properly and adequately, the development of the Museum is likely to be retarded. The Committee hope that the Indian Museum will

pay due attention in this direction in future. The Committee also suggest that the Indian Museum should strive to establish exchange relations with other museums in the country as well as abroad.

Manuscripts transferred to the Indian Museum

19. In a written note submitted to the Committee, it has been stated that the following manuscripts were transferred to the Indian Museum on integration of the Archaeological Section in September, 1965.

No. of Manuscripts	Language	Period
Reg. Nos. 46, 51, 87, 105	Persian	16th Cent. A. D.
Reg. Nos. 1, 45, 47, 48, 52, 60, 66, 67, 90-92, 94, 96-98, 101-102, M. 13	"	17th Cent. A. D.
Reg. Nos. 2, 42-44, 61-65, 68-85, 93, 95, 99, 100, 103, 109-114, 116-117.	"	18th Cent. A.D.
Reg. No. 118	"	19th Cent. A. D.
Reg. Nos. 6-41	Turki	Early 20th Cent. A. D
Reg. No. 49	Arabic	Early 16th Cent. A.D.
Reg. No. 86	"	17th Cent. A.D.
Reg. No. 107	"	18th Cent. A.D.
Reg. Nos. 104, 108, M. 16	"	19th Cent. A.D.
Reg. Nos. 3, 4	Bi-lingual (Persian & Bengali)	17th Cent. A.D.
Reg. No. 5	"	18th Cent. A.D.
Reg. No. M. 18	Sanskrit	6th Cent. A.D.
Reg. Nos. 121, 125, M. 1, M. 4	"	17th Cent. A.D.
M. 6, M. 8, M. 9	"	18th Cent. A.D.
M. 14 Reg. No. 120	"	13th Cent. A.D.
M. 10, M. 11, Reg. Nos. 122, 123, 124, M. 15, Reg. 128.	"	18th Cent. A.D.
Reg. Nos. 126, 127, M. 12	"	19th Cent. A.D.
Reg. Nos. 89, M. 19-M. 21, M. 23, M. 24, M. 28, M. 29 M. 32, M. 33, M. 34.	Bengali	18th Cent. A.D.
Reg. Nos. 88, 106, M. 22, M. 25, M. 27, M. 30, M. 31	"	18th-19th Cent. A.D.
M. 5	Bengali	18th-19th Cent. A.D
M. 17	Avestan	19th Cent. A.D.

The position regarding the state of preservation of the above manuscripts has been stated as under:—

Mss. Beyond Recovery	Mss. not treated but in satisfactory condition	Mss. treated and in good condition	Mss. requiring urgent attention	Mss. that may be taken up for treatment after completion of those given in Col. 4
1	2	3	4	5
Reg. Nos.	Reg. Nos.	Reg. Nos.	Reg. Nos.	Reg. Nos.
6	M-1	36	128 -c	128 (b)
8	M-4	33	128-d	128 (b)
14	M-8	30	12	7
15	M-10	37	11	21
16	M-12	32	10	26
19	M-14	31	18	M-11
23	M-16	41	20	
27	M-17	39	17	44
28	M-19	38	13	57
29	71	35	22	53
	75	40	25	96
Total	79	115	24	91
	82	106	107	M-15
	120	111	93	M-9
	121	110		M-10
	122	112	50	M-27
	123	116	98	M-20
	124	114	83	M-21
	125	43	67	M-22
	126	81	74	56
		76	127	117
	TOTAL 20	70	M-25	84
		73	M-26	100
		48	64	M-29
		59	99	92
		51	M-28	119
		69	M-32	M- 3
		85	M-231	M-7
		78	94	M- 5
		62	89	M-33
		54	103	42
		61	87	55
		52	63	77
		47	108	M-30
		45	109	M-23
		60	105	M-34
		113	65	M-24
		115	M-68	80
		58	13	M-2

1	2	3	4	5
Reg. No.			Reg. Nos.	
	66		M-72	102
	49		6	101
	1			
	2	TOTAL	44	TOTAL 41
	3			
	4			
	5			
	90			
	46			
	88			
	34			
	M-18			
	(Ator)			
	118			
	(Ator)			
	TOTAL	52		

It has further been stated that apart from the Chemical treatment, the general storage methods followed are as follows:—

- (i) The leaves of the manuscripts containing paintings are given a protection for the paintings by inserting a tissue paper in between.
- (ii) The whole manuscripts is wrapped up first in a tissue paper sheet and is placed between two masonite sheets cut to the size of the manuscript, leaving sufficient margin all around. The manuscript together with the covering masonite sheet is wrapped up in cloth so that the leaves are immediately protected from dust and the corners and edges are protected from being twisted or folded by having the masonite sheet, and finally the whole manuscript is protected from dust, heat and damp by the overall wrapping cloth. The descriptive label for each manuscript is tagged on to the wrapping cloth. These are placed in classified order inside steel racks as protection against fire but the whole is ventilated by keeping the racks opened daily for some time.
- (iii) In some special cases, after treatment the manuscripts are placed between two glass sheets which are sealed around. This method is adopted in the case specially of the fragile manuscripts and leaves

The Committee are distressed to note that as many as 10 of the rare and invaluable manuscripts in the Indian Museum have been badly damaged and are beyond recovery due to lack of proper conservation. The Committee suggest that a proper enquiry should be made to fix the responsibility for this damage and loss. The Committee also note that 44 manuscripts need urgent attention for conservation in addition to 41 manuscripts which have also to be conserved. They feel that Government have failed to make necessary provision for the preservation of rare and valuable manuscripts. They need hardly stress that immediate attention should be paid for proper conservation of all these manuscripts so that they are not lost to posterity for ever. The Committee suggest that arrangement may be made to obtain from indigenous sources useful preservation material like cellulose acetate foil, tissue paper, etc.

They also suggest that Government may provide adequate facilities to the Indian Museum for micro filming of rare manuscripts.

D. Display

Presentation Unit

20. The Presentation Unit of the Indian Museum, Calcutta looks after the display work in the galleries of the Museum including setting-up of visual aids to the visiting public by drawing and painting general indicators, like labels, maps, charts etc. Designing of show-cases lighting etc., preparation of Notice Boards and setting up of temporary and permanent exhibitions in the gallery are also attended to by this Unit. It is also helping the Publication Unit and Photography Unit in laying out cover designs of Publications. As part of Educational Services, this Unit is engaged upon preparation of plaster casts of selected sculptures, coins, inscriptions, seals, etc. for selling to the public, schools, colleges universities and other educational institutions.

The Preservation Unit was set up in 1964 and continues to be staffed with only two members—one Artist and one Technical Assistant (modeller).

Labelling & Display

21. In a written note submitted to the Committee, it has been stated that the following steps have been taken by the Indian Museum for improvement of labelling and methods of display:

Labelling:

- (i) In order not to over-burden with too many labels, sometimes broad labels are provided giving the general features,

the provenance and the related period. Those are in three languages—English, Bengali and Hindi.

- (ii) Since labels in this Museum were done from the very inception on different materials and under different schemes, these are now being brought under a systematic type as far as possible. Perspex is generally used for labels which are written by hand by artists sometimes with a covering of another plastic sheet, so that visitors may not spoil it by touching or mis-handling.
- (iii) Generally the printed labels are being done away with, since the small printing on the papers is not visible and the papers get spoiled after sometime. Further, the printing is not necessary in such cases of labels as it is not required on a large scale for any one item, and the labels are also liable to changes and corrections.
- (iv) Labels have been made most inconspicuous with a view to keeping the objects themselves more prominent before the visitors. This has been done by keeping the background colour of the labels very much subdued and the writing less prominent.
- (v) In a few cases, the colour of writing in the labels is matched with the colour of the background so that less prominence is given to the label writings.
- (vi) In a few bays and galleries and dioramas, it has been necessary to put broad introductory labels or general labels, introducing the subjects of the bay or the gallery or the dioramas. This is also done on the same principle of subdued writing on perspex.
- (vii) Apart from perspex, in some cases of small objects, specially in the art galleries, wooden blocks with the typed labels pasted on them are put. This has generally the desired effect.
- (viii) In the Paintings Gallery, a new kind of labelling has been done where broad and brief outlines of each school and artist are given without repeating the same for each item. The individual description of the painting concerned is attached with the item. The broad outlines help the visitors to follow up the school until the style and the school changes, when the general label denoting the style also changes. This relieves much of the repetitions on the

text of the labels and the consequent burden on the visitors.

- (ix) In the Paintings Gallery, the labelling has been done with the most soothing colour of enamel white on a new background of the panels. The general and the individual labels have been done with distinctive lettering.
- (x) In some cases, in keeping with the background colour of the paint or the cloth-lining, the labels have been coloured matchingly on wooden blocks. This has been specially effective in the Musical Instruments Gallery of the Indian Museum.
- (xi) Commensurate with the colossal type of the building of the Museum, sometimes experiments have been made with labels in white on varnished surface on wood. This has been effective in a few very limited cases, like the Introductory Gallery of the Pre-history collection of the Museum, where the general labels are written in this technique on varnished masonite boards, with advantage.
- (xii) In some cases, labels have been written on the block itself which serves as a pedestal of the antiquity displayed. This is possible in those cases where the wooden blocks are wax polished and subdued in their natural colour. The writing is done in black. This has been done very effectively in the new Pre-history Gallery of the Indian Museum.
- (xiii) A kind of labelling with letters cut from work sheets has also been done in the Pre-history Gallery, but mostly for the larger general lettering on the charts. This has its own charm of simplicity and novelty and has been appreciated very much by the visiting public.

Methods of display

- (i) One of the fundamental difficulties inherent with the century old building of the Indian Museum is its distracting and unuseful heights. In order to cut it down to convenience, in the Archaeological Bays of the Long Gallery, artificial ceilings have been put up with restrained lighting from the top.
- (ii) In cases where objects in low relief are concerned, it has been endeavoured to put them on show setting up false walls which recall their original setting around stupas

and stupa-railings. This is done in the Amaravati Bay in the Indian Museum.

- (iii) In different Galleries with different shades of stone for Archaeological objects, background colour of the Gallery has been so done that the objects are brought out in sufficient relief.
- (iv) So far as lighting is concerned, in the showcases in the Art Gallery and the Bays in the Archaeology Gallery, each one is provided with concealed lighting from the top with louvres attached to the false-ceiling.
- (v) In some special cases like the Textile showcases, the older mode of display has been completely changed, and shawls and other spread items are put on slanting supports, so that not only better display-effect is brought out but also with the least stain on the pieces and with congestion completely avoided.

The Committee are glad to note the steps taken by the Indian Museum for the improvement of labeling and method of display. The Committee need hardly stress that continuous efforts should be made to effect further improvements in this direction. In the matter of presentation however, the Committee would like to suggest the use of simple but effective media of display, and use of indigenuous and less costly materials.

The Committee also suggest that the working of the Presentation Unit of the Indian Museum *vis-a-vis* its staff strength should be gone into with a view to see whether the staff strength is adequate to handle the work smoothly and efficiently.

E. Conservation

22. The Chemical Unit of the Indian Museum has recently been set-up to deal with all kinds of preservation and restoration works required for the Museum exhibits. The staff (4 in number) necessary for this Unit has since been recruited. The functions of this Unit have been stated to be:

- (i) To renovate the rooms with necessary fittings and fixtures for the laboratory;
- (ii) Purchase of laboratory equipments furniture, chemicals, etc.

It has been stated that the conservation laboratory is now functioning with a wide range of activities. It is looking to the chemical preservation of archaeological antiquities, like copper and lead coins, sculptures, wood-carvings, bronzes, etc., while the anthropological collections with a large amount of bamboo-materials are also receiving attention from it. On this Unit has also devolved the responsibilities of maintaining the enormous reserve collection of Art Galleries, which comprises ivory work, metal-ware, wood-carving etc. Starting in May, 1966, the Unit has treated upto the end of June 80 objects with success. These comprise head-dress of various materials viz. cane, palm-leaf, etc., wooden objects and earthen ware, of the anthropological reserve collections. These were cleaned and cleared of colloidal dirt and soot. They are also given anti-insect treatment.

The representative of the Indian Museum stated during evidence that the Museum did not possess adequate facilities for the chemical treatment of the carcasses, fossils and other exhibits. He also stated that a sum of Rs. 25,000 was required as initial expenditure on the Chemical Unit. But this was not available from the Government and the Museum was asked to meet it from the total sanctioned budget.

In a written note submitted to the Committee it has been stated that the Chemical Section which was only set up by the middle of this year (1966) requires to be fully equipped with all necessary chemicals, apparatus etc., so that it can work satisfactorily and meet the large requirements of this Museum for chemical treatment of its vast collections of objects like Bronzes, manuscripts, coins, textiles, ceramics, wood-carvings, paintings, etc. In fact, this Chemical Laboratory at the Indian Museum should provide for needs for chemical treatment of objects for the Museums and other similar bodies in the eastern part of India. For this, a minimum amount for purchase of chemicals and equipments should be made available and a minimum number of staff appointed. At present there is only one Assistant Chemist in the grade of Rs. 325—575 along with two Laboratory Attendants. It has been stated that this is a very unsatisfactory staff position in such an important Section of the Indian Museum.

It has been suggested by a leading museologist that the Indian Museum should as soon as possible have a well-equipped and well-staffed Conservation Laboratory to serve its own needs and those of the Victoria Memorial Hall Museum and other museums of the region.

In view of the fact that the Indian Museum is the oldest Museum in the country with an extensive collection of objects like bronzes,

manuscripts, coins, textiles, paintings, etc. which require preservation and chemical treatment, the Committee feel that the scheme of setting up a full-fledged Chemical Section in the Museum should have been processed with a sense of urgency. The Committee note that although the Chemical Unit has started functioning since May, 1966, it is still poorly equipped in regard to both equipments and staff. The Committee need hardly stress that the Conservation Laboratory of the Indian Museum should be fully equipped and fully staffed as early as possible so that it can look after the varied and enormous collections of the Museum as also of the Victoria Memorial Hall Museum properly. The Committee also suggest that efforts should be made to get aid from UNESCO or any other international agency in this regard.

They further suggest that the Conservation Laboratory of the Indian Museum should also render assistance to the other important museums in Calcutta e.g. Victoria Memorial Hall Museum, Asiatic Society, Ashutosh Museum, etc.

F. Educational Facilities

Educational Programmes

23. In a written note submitted to the Committee, the Indian Museum has enumerated the details of educational programmes undertaken by the Museum. Those are reproduced below:—

- (i) A series of 12 Popular Lectures in two sessions, Winter and Summer, are arranged each year for discourses on the Museum collections in the six different Sections, two being devoted to each.
- (ii) A course of monthly Discussion-seminars has been started in the Museum with reading of research papers and discussions by the Curatorial staff once every month. In these Discussion-Seminars outside scholars are also invited to participate.
- (iii) A programme of publishing Bi-annual Bulletin has been started. Two issues of these have already been out in 1966, for January and July respectively. This Journal apart from giving information about the Museum activities and new acquisitions, and interpretation of its vast collections by specialists in the form of research articles, also publishes the important lectures delivered under Popular Lecture series on the subjects relating to the museum collections.

- (iv) The Children's Day which has been instituted in this Museum on every Saturday of the week is also an item for Educational Services organised in the Museum. Each day about 3 to 4 schools with a limited number of students at a time are invited to participate in these programmes which include special guided tours in the galleries and also educative film-shows suited to the children.
- (v) A general Guide Service through out the week has been organised by making the Guide-Lecturers easily available in the galleries. Special visits by VIPs. are attended to and the latter are received at the Museum. Indications at all vantage points have been put up in order to publicise the availability of the Guide services. Important delegations are taken round with special care by the Guide-Lecturers.
- (vi) Publication of Guide Books for all the six Sections, each one in three languages, English, Bengali and Hindi, has also been completed including the General Guide Book covering all the Sections. The Museum has thus about 21 volumes of Guide Books available to visitors at very cheap rates.
- (vii) Casts of coins, sculptures, copper-plates etc. are provided to Schools, Colleges and Universities on demand. So far, about 1500 casts of coins have been supplied to the Universities within the last one year. This work, however, is greatly handicapped through dearth of modellers of whom there is only one.
- (viii) Extension Lecturers by outstanding scholars are organised on special invitation under the auspices of the Educational Services of the Museum.
- (ix) Special Exhibitions accompanied by relevant film shows are also organised from time to time by the Museum. During the last one and half years the following exhibitions accompanied by film-shows have been held:
- (a) Indian Ancient Monuments through photographs (Sponsored by UNESCO).
 - (b) Museums in Education (Sponsored by the British Council).
 - (c) An Exhibition of Modern Art (Sponsored by the Indian College of Art).

The Committee need hardly stress that 'every museum must develop an appropriate programme for education of the community it serves.' They are glad to note the educational programmes started by the Indian Museum in this regard. They, however, feel that educational programmes should be further intensified and strengthened. The Committee think there is considerable scope for holding featured exhibitions, symposia and Seminars in collaboration with the Universities and Museums in the eastern region.

Liaison with University of Calcutta, Colleges Schools etc.

24. It has been stated that as a part of the educational programme recently started, the Museum has formulated a scheme to establish better contacts with the schools and colleges by inviting them on special occasions to participate in its galleries and film shows.

The number of schools and colleges which have participated so far is stated to be as follows:—

- (i) From 31-7-1965 to 18-12-1965, 28 schools have participated in Children's Programme with 1010 students attending.
- (ii) Owing to unusual conditions of the city during the first four months of this year, all scheduled programmes could not be executed. As a result, from January to July, 1966 only 17 schools participated in this programme with 613 students attending.
- (iii) About 15 colleges so far have participated during the year ending 31-3-1966 in the different guided tours round the galleries.

It has further been stated that Museology Classes are also held in the Museum Galleries and in the Lecture Hall of the Indian Museum as and when arranged. The Director takes classes of Museology as and when requested by the Calcutta University. With the establishment of the Chemical Laboratory this facility also will be available to the Museology students in future. The Library of the Indian Museum also is used by the Museology students and is available to all research workers. During the last three years on an average 8 to 10 students each year, which is the maximum number of students in the Museology Department, have taken advantage of the facility.

The Study Group of the Estimates Committee which visited Indian Museum during June, 1966 had been informed that post-graduate classes of the Calcutta University in Geology and Ancient History etc. were being held in the Museum. Although the Museum

had not so far been recognised for the purpose of preparing students for their doctorate in these subjects, advice and guidance to research workers preparing for the doctorate were made available by the Museum informally.

The Committee are glad to note that there is liaison with the Calcutta University and with other educational institutions at Calcutta in regard the facilities for research and education in the Indian Museum. They, however, feel that it would be desirable to draw a co-ordinated programme for research in consultation with the Victoria Memorial Hall Museum and the Ashutosh Museum of the Calcutta University. Efforts should continue to be made to establish regular contacts with other universities situated in the Eastern Zone.

Modelling Department

25. It has been stated that a Modelling Department has been set up in the Indian Museum in September, 1965 to popularise exhibits among schools and colleges. Since its inception the amount of work undertaken by the Modelling Department has been tabulated as under:—

September 1965 to March 1966

<i>Plaster Casts :</i>	Pcs.
(1) Buddha (Sarnath)	17
(2) Jambhala (Nalanda)	19
(3) Seated Buddha (Nalanda)	4
(4) Inscription on copper plate	12
(5) Do. (Ring with seal)	1
(6) Soap stone & terracotta	4
(7) Coins	474
(8) Pedestal of Sarnath Buddha, Jambhala and Seated Buddha	36
TOTAL	567

<i>Plaster piece-mould :</i>	Pcs.
(9) Sarnath Buddha	1
(10) Pedestal of Sarnath Buddha	1
(11) Seated Buddha and Jambhala	1
TOTAL	3

Miscellaneous

	Pcs.
(12) Model of a showcase with mountboard for sales counter	1
(13) Scale drawing of two dummy models for displaying choga, etc	2
(14) Prepared Pedestal in clay for Sarnath Buddha	1
(15) Prepared Pedestal in clay for Jambhala & Seated Buddha	1
TOTAL	4

Wax-mould :

	Pcs.
Copper plates and Ring	13

April 1966 to 29th October, 1966 :

Plaster Casts :

(1) Buddha (Sarnath)	13
(2) Jambhala (Nalanda)	13
(3) Seated Buddha (Nalanda)	3
(4) Inscription on copper plates	19
(5) Ring with seal of above plates	2
(6) Terracotta sealing	4
(7) Coins	2404
(8) Pedestal of Sarnath Buddha, Jambhala and Seated Buddha	27
(9) A medallion on rail pillar from Bharhut	2
(10) Head of Buddha (Sarnath)	1
TOTAL	2488

Plaster piece-mould :

(11) A medallion on rail pillar from Bharhut	1
(12) Buddha (Chittagong dt.)	1
(13) Plaster & Plastacin piece-mould	1
TOTAL	3

Wax-mould :

(14) Copper Plates & Ring	21
---------------------------	----

Miscellaneous :

(15) Repaired Broken vases .

4

The sales proceeds of this Department since its inception have been stated as follows year-wise:

	Rs.
1965-66	351.00
1966-67	1,211.00

It has been further stated that there is only one Modeller in this Department. This staff strength is far from adequate. The Department should have a minimum of the following staff to meet its bare requirements:

- (i) Two Modellers in the scale of Rs. 210—425.
- (ii) One Moulder in the scale of Rs. 150—240.

The Committee feel that the Modelling Department of the Indian Museum can go a long way in establishing better contacts between the Indian Museum on the one hand and colleges and schools on the other as many educational institutions would like to have these casts and moulds which have great educative value. Furthermore, this Department can help in augmenting the revenues of the Indian Museum by sale of plaster casts, wax-moulds, etc. The Committee therefore suggest that the Ministry of Education may review the needs for staff vis-a-vis the work-load of the Department.

Publicity

26. The Committee have been informed that in order to publicise the activities of the Indian Museum, Press releases, Radio-broadcasts have been arranged whenever any new galleries of the Indian Museum are inaugurated or new activities are held. The following are some of the occasions when such publicity arrangements were done:—

- (i) On the occasion of the inauguration of the Nahar Gallery of Oriental Art by the Governor of West Bengal on the 3rd January, 1966, Press releases were made and news flashed in the newspapers of India. This was commented on under the news comments over All-India Radio.
- (ii) On the occasion of the inauguration of the Musical Instruments Gallery on the 25th July, 1966, representatives

of the Press were invited to a preview, and the inauguration ceremony was reported in the newspapers, most of which also published photographs of the new Gallery.

- (iii) The opening of the new Introductory Gallery of Pre-and proto-history collections on the 8th September, 1966, was also similarly publicised through the Press who were invited as usual for preview. This was also published in the leading papers with photographs of the Gallery.
- (iv) Besides, new and outstanding acquisitions by the Museum are occasionally flashed over the newspapers with full description and interpretation of objects so acquired. The Films Division of the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting took shots on the 25th February, 1966 of the items newly acquired by the Museum and televised programmes on these were also arranged by them.
- (v) Occasional shots of the Gallery and its important objects are also encouraged and done by the Films Division for its Documentary Films. A recent such shooting was arranged by the Tourist Department for "Calcutta and its places of interest".
- (vi) Series of radio interviews for recording and broadcasting were made recently on the various collections of the Indian Museum in which the Director and a few curators participated.
- (vii) Special talks on important monuments and collections relating to these monuments were broadcast over the radio by the Director and the Curatorial staff.
- (viii) A talk in Hindi on the Indian Museum and its collections was also recently broadcast over the radio.

Exhibitions

27. It has been stated that the Indian Museum takes part in exhibitions of cultural interest in India and abroad. It has participated in the following exhibitions held in India:

- (i) Exhibition of Monuments in India in photographs (sponsored by the UNESCO).
- (ii) Exhibition on Museums in Education (Sponsored by the British Council).
- (iii) Exhibition of Modern Paintings (organised for Defence Funds).

It has also participated in exhibitions abroad on Indian Art as below:

- (i) Exhibition of Indian Art in Japan in 1962-63.
- (ii) Exhibition of Indian Art in U.S.A. in 1963-64.
- (iii) Exhibition of Indian Art in West Germany in 1964.

Publications

28. The details of the publications brought out by the Indian Museum during the last 5 years have been stated to be as follows:—

	Price
	Rs.
1962-63	
Guide Book for Anthropology Gallery (Hindi)	1.00
1963-64	
Guide Book for Art Gallery (Bengali)	2.75
Guide Book for Anthropology Gallery (Bengali)	1.25
Guide Book for Geology Gallery (English)	1.85
Guide Book for Botany Gallery (Bengali)	0.55
Guide Book for Botany Gallery (Hindi)	0.60
General Short Guide Book (Bengali)	1.30
General Short Guide Book (Hindi)	1.25
Picture Postcards for Geology Gallery	0.40
Annual Report (1960-61)	Not for sale
Annual Report (1961-62)	Do.
1964-65	
Guide Book for Art Gallery (Hindi)	2.80
Guide Book for Archaeology Gallery (Hindi)	1.00
Abanindranath Tagore—His early Works (Album) Revised Edition	15.00
Royal Conquests & Cultural Migration in South and Deccan (Reprinted)—Sivaramamurti	8.00
Annual Report (1962-63)	Not for sale.
1965-66	
Guide Book for Archaeology Gallery (Bengali)	1.25
Guide Book for Zoology Gallery (English)	1.15
Guide Book for Geology Gallery (Hindi)	1.00
Indian Museum Bulletin (Vol. 1, No. 1)	5.00
Picture Folders from Tagore Album (13 kinds of pictures)	0.40

	Price
1966-67	Rs.
Guide Book for Geology (Bengali)	1.00
Indian Museum Bulletin (Vol. I, No. 2)	5.00
Annual Report (1963-64) & (1964-65)	Not for sale.
Picture Postcards (Art & Archaeology) 6 kinds	Price not yet fixed.

The future plans for publications have been stated to be as follows:—

(a) Series of Monographs as detailed below:—

- (i) The Vanishing and Extinct Birds and Mammals of Indian by Shri Ajit Kumar Mukherjee, Zoologist, Zoological Survey of India.
- (ii) Mughal Miniatures: Its origin and character by Dr. Niharranjan Ray, Director, Indian Institute for Advanced Studies, Simla.
- (iii) The Wood Plants of India by Shri V. S. Agrawal, Assistant Curator, Botanical Section, Indian Museum.
- (iv) Chamba Rumal by Shri A. K. Bhattacharyya, Director, Indian Museum.

(b) Picture Folders and Picture Postcards:

- (i) One set of six Picture Postcards in Colour for Anthropology.
- (ii) One set of six Picture Postcards in colour for Zoology.
- (iii) One set of six Pictures Postcards in colour for Art.
- (iv) One set of Picture Postcards in black and white for Archaeology.
- (v) One set of Picture Folders for Anthropology.
- (vi) One set of Picture Folders for Art.

(c) Bulletin:

- (i) Subsequent volumes of the Bi-annual Bulletin of the Indian Museum.

Catalogues and Hand Books

- (i) Revised Edition of Catalogue of coins Vol. I
- (ii) Revised Edition of Catalogue of coins Vol. II

- (iii) Revised Edition of Catalogue of coins Vol. III.
- (iv) Revised Edition of Catalogue of coins Vol. IV.
- (v) Revised Edition of the Hand Book of Sculptures (Vol. I—Sunga).
- (vi) Revised Edition of the Hand Book of Sculptures (Vol. II—Gandhara).
- (vii) Catalogue of Sculptures of Kushana period.
- (viii) Catalogue of Sculptures of the Gupta period.
- (ix) Catalogue of Sculptures of the Post-Gupta period.
- (x) Catalogue of Brones.
- (xi) Catalogue of Textiles.
- (xii) Catalogue of Paintings.

The Publication Unit of the Indian Museum looks after the work involved in bringing out the publications. The Unit at present consists of three members of staff as follows:—

Publication Superintendent	1
Proof Reader	, .. 1
Copy holder	.. 1

The Unit has also entered into exchange programmes with different museums both in India and abroad.

The Committee commend the steps taken to publicise the activities of the Indian Museum through Press releases, radio broadcasts, documentaries, radio talks, etc. They also note that Indian Museum has taken part in exhibitions of cultural interest in India and abroad. The Committee need hardly point out that it is mainly through the publications like news-letters, bulletins, monographs, bibliographies, inexpensive prints, etc. that the Museum could be better known to a larger public not only within the country but also outside its limits. The Committee would urge that a phased programme of bringing out essential publications by Indian Museum as well as other Central Government Museums should be drawn up and strictly adhered to.

In view of the extensive publications and publicity activities undertaken by the Museum, the Committee suggest that the question of strengthening the publicity/Publication Unit in the Indian

Museum may be considered. The Committee also recommend that concerted efforts should be made to promote the sales of the publications brought out by the Indian Museum in India as well as abroad. The Committee would also like to stress that the Publication Unit should, as far as possible, be self-supporting and if necessary special grants should also be made to make it purposeful.

Library

29. It has been stated that the Central Museum Library caters to the needs primarily of the members of staff of the Museum though scholars from the Calcutta and other Universities, and other research workers and students make full use of it as a reference Library.

The nucleus of this Library has been formed by the collection of Art books which were transferred to the Directorate of the Museum on integration of the Art Section with it. The Library thus reconstituted in 1965 is housed in a spacious hall on the top floor of the main Museum Building, provides sitting accommodation for research workers, in addition to providing facilities for general readers for reference work. Under an exchange programme of publications, the Library receives publications from different institutions both at home and abroad and gets books on temporary loan under an inter-library loan system, for the use of scholars etc. The staff consists of an Assistant Librarian and a Library peon.

The Committee have been informed during evidence that the Indian Museum has prepared a scheme to develop the Library into a larger Library, including scientific books also, so that research in other scientific sections could also be carried out.

The Committee recommend that adequate facilities should be developed in the Library of the Indian Museum to meet the growing needs of students and research workers. They feel that the Library should be properly staffed and should be in the charge of a trained Librarian.

The Committee also suggest that a phased programme for the development of the Library may be drawn up and implemented.

Visitors

30. The Committee have been informed that the Indian Museum is open on all days except three national holidays and Mondays which are weekly closed days for the Museum. Opening hours are from 10 hrs. to 17 hrs. from March to November and from 10 hrs.

to 16-30 hrs. from December to February. Admission to the Museum is free for all days except on Fridays on which entrance fee of 25 Paise per head is charged. Certified students and children under 12 years are exempted from paying entrance fees on Fridays.

Asked to state the number of visitors to Indian Museum during each of the last five years, the Committee have been informed in a written note that since there is no system of levying entrance fees for visitors on any day, except Friday, it is not possible to give an exact and accurate number of visitors to the Museum. By calculation based on the number of visitors on Fridays from April 1965 to March 1966 an average number for one complete year can be arrived at. This figure is 1,000 to 1,200 per day on an average. The income from the entrance fees charged from the visitors for the last five years is as follows:—

1961-62	..	Rs. 12,967.25 p.
1962-63		Rs. 12,196.25 p.
1963-64	..	Rs. 8,601.75 p.
1964-65		Rs. 14,325.75 p.
1965-66		Rs. 12,210.75 p.

It has further been stated that there is no Suggestion Book or Complaint Book to record the comments of the visitors. Any suggestions or complaints, however, communicated to the office are attended to as far as possible.

The Committee feel that proper day to day record of the number of visitors to the Indian Museum should be kept by the Museum. They also feel that there should be a uniform practice for admission of visitors to all the Central Government Museums. In this connection the Committee note that the Victoria Memorial Hall Museum charges an admission fee of 25 paise for adults and 12 paise for children below the age of 7 years on all working days except Friday when double fee is charged. The Committee suggest that the feasibility of introducing a similar scale of admission fee in the Indian Museum and all other museums may be considered by Government.

The Committee also desire that a complaint or suggestion book should be kept at the Museum where the visitors could register their views and impressions about the Museum.

G. Finance

Financial Assistance

31. The quantum of financial assistance received by the Indian Museum during Second Plan and Third Plan from various sources is indicated in the statement given below:

	(i) Central Govt.	(ii) State Govt.	(iii) Trust Fund		
		Lecture Grant	Up-keep of Nahar Gallery	Entry fees	Other Misc. collections
	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
<i>Second Plan Period</i>					
1956-57	Figures not readily available.				
1957-58	1,58,755·00	4,800·00	744·00	11,701·00	1,171·00
1958-59	1,62,830·00	4,800·00	835·00	10,886·50	1,947·00
1959-60	1,54,236·00	4,800·00	744·00	10,434·50	1,164·00
	47,400·00*	..	..	..	..
1960-61	1,61,300·00	4,800·00	744·00	11,357·50	850·00
	1,40,799·00**	..	..	..	..
TOTAL	8,25,320·00	19,200·00	3067·00	44,379·50	7,132·00
<i>Third Plan Period</i>					
1961-62	2,03,934·00	4,800·00	744·00	12,967·25	1,984·00
	1,44,700·00***	..	..	..	..
1962-63	4,53,900·00	..	744·00	12,196·25	3,682·00
1963-64	4,13,300·00	2,400·00	744·00	8,601·75	7,776·00
1964-65	4,53,000·00	2,400·00	744·00	14,325·75	51,262·00
1965-66	5,47,738·00	..	627·00	12,210·75	2,313·00
TOTAL	22,52,772·00	9,600·00	3,603·00	60,301·75	67,017·00

*Additional Grant for Publications, Lecture Hall and Photographic equipments improvement of Art Section and purchase of Art objects.

**Additional Grant for Electrical works and 2nd Lift Rs. 1,08,143·00 and the balance for Publications and better sitting accommodation.

***Additional Grant for improvement for Art Section Rs. 60,000·00, Publications Rs. 50,000/-, Photography and Chemical Units Rs. 34/-700/-, etc.

The details of the (i) Budgetary proposals submitted by the Indian Museum; and (ii) Actual amount sanctioned by the Central Government during the Second and Third Plan are as follows:—

Period	Budget Proposals submitted	Actual Amount sanctioned		
	Rs.	Rs.		
<i>Second Plan Period*</i>				
1956-57	Figures not readily available.			
1957-58	Normal	1,17,400	Recurring	1,55,300
	Fresh Charge	1,53,500	Non-Recurring	3,455
	Acquisition of United Service Club Building	26,25,000		1,58,755
	M/Tax	16,300		
		<u>29,12,200</u>		
1958-59	Normal	1,14,900	Recurring	1,59,330
	Fresh Charge	2,51,900	Non-Recurring	3,500
	M/Tax	16,300		
		<u>3,84,100</u>		<u>1,62,830</u>
1959-60	Normal	1,33,600	Recurring	1,69,936
	Fresh Charge	2,77,100	Non-Recurring	47,400
	M/Tax	16,300		
		<u>4,27,000</u>		<u>2,17,336</u>
1960-61	Normal	1,29,100	Recurring	1,61,300
	Fresh Charge	4,18,000	Non-Recurring	1,40,799
	M/Tax	16,300		
		<u>5,63,400</u>		<u>3,02,099</u>
<i>Third Plan Period</i>				
1961-62	Normal	1,91,300	Recurring	2,03,934
	Fresh Charge	7,80,300	Non-Recurring	1,44,700
	M/Tax	16,300		
		<u>9,87,900</u>		<u>3,48,634</u>

Period	Budget Proposals submitted	Actual Amount sanctioned
	Rs.	Rs.
1962-63	Normal	Recurring
	Fresh Charge	
	M/Tax	
1963-64	Normal	Recurring
	Fresh Charge	
	M/Tax	
1964-65	Normal	Recurring
	Fresh Charge	
	M/Tax	
1965-66	Normal	Recurring
	Fresh Charge	
	M/Tax	

During the current financial year, the Government has sanctioned a sum of Rs. 5 lakhs as grants-in-aid to the Indian Museum for its maintenance and development as against the sum of Rs. 16,29,400 budgeted by the Trustees. Asked during evidence, how it was expected to meet the shortage, the representative of the Indian Museum stated, "We would ask for supplementary grants." Further asked what were the main items which were cut off due to lesser grants, the witness replied that, "Only the expenditure has been cut down, not the items."

The Committee find that there is a wide gap between the budgetary proposals submitted by the Indian Museum and the amounts sanctioned by the Central Government during the last so many years. Although the Committee realise that the amounts have to be sanctioned by the Central Government subject to the over-all financial resources, they feel that every care should be taken by Government to see that the essential items of work are not held up due to paucity of funds. The Committee would like to stress that the Indian

Museum, apart from being the oldest, is the biggest multipurpose museum in the country with vast and varied collection of materials, rare manuscripts and records. The Committee feel that this Museum deserves to be properly developed so that it can take its rightful place as the National Museum for the Eastern Zone. In the opinion of the Committee there should not be much disparities in financial aid from the Central Government between this Museum and the National Museum at New Delhi.

Plan Provisions

32. In a written note submitted to the Committee by the Indian Museum, it has been stated that no provision was made in the Second Five Year Plan for developmental works in the Indian Museum. A sum of Rs. 75,000 was provided in the second year of the Third Five Year Plan, but this amount was surrendered due to national emergency. In the Fourth Five Year Plan, a total sum of Rs. 10,00,000 has been provided for the Indian Museum.

A sum of Rs. 2.50 lakhs has been sanctioned for the current year under the provisions of the Fourth Five Year Plan for the following purposes:—

- (i) Pay and Allowances etc. of the staff of Archaeological and Anthropological Galleries transferred to the Indian Museum.
- (ii) Setting up new galleries, Museums workshop, mobile unit, improvement of lighting and display arrangements, publication and printing machines.
- (iii) Purchase of Godrej Iron Safes and Renovation of Musical instruments.

In the written note furnished to the Committee the Indian Museum has stated as under:—

“The developmental programmes of the Museum including the galleries transferred since September, 1965, suffered considerably in the absence of adequate funds in the first year of the Fourth Five Year Plan. The following items of work received a set-back and were delayed to some extent:—

- (i) The setting up of the Chemical Unit which is so essential for the preservation of Museum Objects could not

be set up until May, 1966 and this also was handicapped greatly for purpose of materials and equipment since the funds required, viz. Rs. 25,000, was not available.

- (ii) The setting up of the Jewellery Gallery of Anthropology Gallery could not be taken up in view of the shortage of funds as the setting up of such a Gallery requires adequate security measures like Roll-top steel shutters, iron gates and unbreakable glass-cases for this type of valuable objects.
- (iii) The Children's Gallery also could not be taken up immediately as the funds available were not quite adequate.
- (iv) In view of the non-provision of adequate funds the required equipment like Linhoff camera, projector etc. could not be procured and no progress could be made in the Photo Section. It is also necessary that we should have adequate basic Photography material like Photo paper, chemicals etc. for supply of photos to public and for record of photographs of Museum objects. For this, adequate provision of funds is necessary.
- (v) The Modelling Section could not be set up in view of the shortage of funds and staff. Normal necessary equipments like rubber moulds, special lights etc. could not be purchased, with the result that much of public demand for plaster casts and models could not be met nor our day-to-day work carried on in the absence of adequate staff to help the only one Technical Assistant (Modelling) looking after the Modelling Section.
- (vi) The progress of setting up the Pre-and Proto-history Gallery along with the Egyptian Gallery could not be made sufficiently except a part of the Pre-history Gallery—The Introductory Gallery—for paucity of funds.

So far as the provision of the Fourth Plan is concerned it is not at all adequate. Since the taking over of the galleries, there are large collections of almost irreplaceable and valuable objects which require rehabilitation in the galleries. These objects were stored in the cellars on account of dismantling of a few galleries while space was vacated for the

Civil Defence Organisation in connection with the Chinese aggression, in 1962. Some of these galleries are: Insects Gallery, Invertebrate Gallery, the Egyptian Gallery, the pre-and Proto-history Gallery, the Gallery for Excavated Materials and the Gallery for Physical Anthropology and a part of Gallery for Cultural Anthropology. Unless adequate funds are available some of these galleries cannot be arranged and opened, with the consequence that the related objects may deteriorate in the stores and cellars. For this also an accessory workshop, Carpentry, a unit of showcase designers etc. have to be set up which require at least minimum funds. This is more necessary as the normal sanctioned Annual Budget is curtailed to nearly 1/3 of the original estimated expenditure."

The details of the amounts already sanctioned for some of the new projects, the target dates of completion and the proposals of staffing them may be seen at Appendix V.

The Committee realise that the question of providing funds in the Fourth Five Year Plan so far as the Indian Museum is concerned, has to be considered in a wider perspective, i.e. provision of funds for the development of other Museums and the over-all finances available. However, the Committee are unhappy to note that adequate attention has not been paid towards the development of those Museums in the country which can claim the status of National Museums in their respective regions. The Committee feel that for allocating funds to the various Museums, there should be a system of priorities and funds should be provided to those sections first which can be made self-supporting and can augment the revenues of the Museums. In the opinion of the Committee the Modelling, Photography and the Publication Units could be suitably developed so that they could bring in revenues by the sale of their products. Next in order of priority comes the Chemical Unit which is so essential for conservation and preservation of invaluable and rare objects.

The Committee suggest that the question of provision of funds for the developmental works of the Museums should be gone into in all its aspects by Government in consultation with the Planning Commission and an order of priorities laid down for the development programmes to be undertaken by the Museums in future.

Percentage of revenues spent on acquisition, administration etc.

33. The percentage of revenue spent on acquisition, administration repairs to the building, etc. by the Indian Museum during each of the

last 5 years has been stated to as follows:—

Head	1961-62	1962-63	1963-64	1964-65	1965-66	Grants for Developments %
	%	%	%	%	%	
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	(7)
(i) Acquisition	..	..	..	..	..	21
(ii) Administration	83	72	69	70	70	..
(iii) Repairs to Bldg.	8.5	24	27	26	24	..
(iv) Preservation	..	..	..	..	..	..
(v) Presentation	..	..	..	..	2	..
(vi) Publications	..	..	..	..	..	31
(vii) Research	..	..	..	..	..	..
(viii) Municipal Tax	8.5	4	4	4	4	..
(ix) Photography	..	..	..	..	..	20
(x) Reorganisation of Art Section	..	..	..	..	..	28

The Committee are distressed to note that during the last five years, the Indian Museum has not incurred any expenditure under the heads "Acquisition, Preservation, Publications and Research, and even the expenditure incurred on Presentation during 1965-66 has been rather insignificant.* The Committee are particularly unhappy that the bulk of the expenditure is being incurred on Administration. The Committee cannot too strongly emphasise the need for the balanced development of the Museum under different heads like Acquisition, Preservation, Presentation, etc.

*At the time of factual verification, the Ministry have stated as follows :

".....the following amounts were spent from the Trust Funds for publications and purchase of art objects during the period :

Head	1961-62	1962-63	1963-64	1964-65 †	1965-66
		Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	
Publications		1,708	10,028	26,767	
Purchase of Art Objects	15,907	..

As no Government grant was received for the above items during the said periods, percentage of revenues spent on them could not be shown in the statement which was meant for the Government grants only."

CHAPTER II

THE ASIATIC SOCIETY, CALCUTTA

Origin

34. On the 15th January, 1784 through the exertions of Sir William Jones,* a Puisne Judge of the then Supreme Court at Fort William in Bengal and a distinguished scholar and linguist, a meeting was held at the premises of the court under the Presidentship of Sir Robert Chambers, Kt., Chief Justice, Supreme Court. At that meeting a resolution was passed unanimously for establishing a Society under the name of the "Asiatick Society" for enquiring into "the History, Civil and Natural, the Antiquities, Arts, Sciences, and Literature of Asia." Thirty leaders of the European Community then settled in Calcutta who took part in the meeting became the founders of the Society and later on became the leading officers of the East India Company in India. Among them were some of the principal contributors to the pages of the Society's Transactions.

The name "Asiatick Society" continued in use up to the beginning of 1825.

In 1825 the antique "K" was dropped without any formal resolution having been passed to that effect. In 1829 the Royal Asiatic Society of Great Britain and Ireland was established and that Society requested the Asiatic Society to be affiliated to that organisation but the Society declined that offer with thanks. The Literary Society of Bombay set up in 1806 was affiliated to the London Society under the designation of "The Bombay Branch of the Royal Asiatic Society."

*Jones, Sir William, orientalist, was born in London, 28th September 1746, and from Harrow passed in 1764 to University College, Oxford, where his remarkable attainments attracted attention. In 1774 he was called to the bar; and in 1776 became Commissioner of Bankrupts, publishing meanwhile a Persian Grammar (1772), Latin Commentaries on Asiatic Poetry (1774), and a translation of seven ancient Arabic poems (1780). In 1783 he obtained a judgeship in the Supreme Court of Judicature in Bengal, and was knighted. He at once devoted himself to Sanskrit, whose startling resemblance to Latin and Greek he was the first to point out in 1787. He established the Asiatic Society of Bengal (1784), and was its first President. He had finished his translation of the Sakuntala, the Hitopadesa, parts of the Vedas, Gitagovinda and Manu, when he died at Calcutta, 27th April, 1794. The reputation of Sir William Jones during his lifetime was immense. The extraordinary range of his knowledge caused him to be regarded as a prodigy of learning. He is said to have known thirteen languages thoroughly and twenty-eight fairly well. But by posterity he is chiefly remembered as the pioneer of Sanskrit learning.

In 1832 the Society accorded permission to Mr. James Prinsep* to publish Captain J. D. Herbert's Journal "Gleanings in Science" under the new name of "Journal of the Asiatic Society". Mr. Prinsep in order to distinguish it from the Journal of the Royal Society at London added the words "of Bengal" on the title page. The introduction of the words "of Bengal" was not noticed by the then Council of the Society as no formal permission was taken by Mr. Prinsep to add those words. In 1842 when the Council of the Society took upon it the responsibility of publishing the Journal, the name "Journal of the Asiatic Society of Bengal" had become so very familiar all over the world that the title in question was tacitly retained. In the Code of Bye-laws of the Society printed by the Society in 1851; the words "of Bengal" were allowed to stand.

⁴ In 1899, the Council went into the question of resumption of the original name of the Society by dropping the words "of Bengal" but the general body of Members to whom the matter was referred in January 1900, did not approve of the proposal of the Council to the effect that the Society should be designated simply as "the Asiatic Society".

The Society celebrated the 150th anniversary of its foundation on the 15th January, 1934, and on that occasion the then President proposed that the Society should apply for a Royal Charter to be known under the name and style of "The Royal Asiatic Society of India (Asiatic Society of Bengal)." A formal application to the British Crown was submitted through the Viceroy with the result that the Royal Permission came in 1936 and since then the Society came to be known as "the Royal Asiatic Society of Bengal."

*PRINSEP, JAMES (1799-1840), architect and orientalist, born in 1799, was seventh son of John Prinsep, and a younger brother of Henry Thoby Prinsep. He arrived in Calcutta on 15th September, 1819 and was appointed assistant assay-master at the Calcutta mint. Prinsep was later appointed assay-master in the Banaras mint, and retained that office until that mint was abolished in 1830, when he was reappointed to the Calcutta mint as deputy assay-master under Dr. Horace Hayman Wilson. On the retirement of the latter in 1832, Prinsep succeeded him as assay-master and Secretary to the mint committee at Calcutta. He retained these appointments until 1838, when owing to his intense application to scientific and literary pursuits, in addition to his official duties, his health entirely failed, and he was compelled to return to England. He died in London on 22nd April, 1840, in his forty-first year.

It is upon his literary work that Prinsep's fame mainly rests. Shortly after his return from Banaras to Calcutta, he had become a frequent contributor to, and afterwards, editor of, a periodical called "Gleanings in Science, started by Major Herber" a scientific officer in the company's service. Its object was to make known in India discoveries or advances in art and science made in Europe. This periodical subsequently became the Journal of the Asiatic Society of Bengal, of which Prinsep became secretary in succession to Wilson. From this time Prinsep devoted himself largely to the study of the antiquities of India, and to deciphering ancient inscriptions, of which copies were sent to him from all parts of India. He succeeded in deciphering certain important inscriptions in the Pali language, on pillars at Delhi and Allahabad, which had baffled Sir William Jones, Colebrooke, and Wilson.

On the suggestion of some members and on the basis of the letter from the Government of India which was received in July 1949, recommending a change in the name of the Society by clipping the word "Royal" and changing the word Asiatic to 'Asian' the question of a further change in the name of the Society was considered but the general body of members did not agree to adopt the name "the Asian Society" but voted for the adoption of the title "The Asiatic Society" at the general meeting held on the 2nd of January, 1950. As the technical formalities about the alteration in the name in the books of the Registrar of Joint Stock Companies, Government of India (who is also the Registrar under the Registration Act XXI of 1860) could not be completed till about the middle of June, 1951, the formal change in the name could not be effected before 1st July, 1951.

Building

35. For twenty years since its Foundation in 1784 the Society had no house of its own. The meetings were held in the Grand Jury Room of the old Supreme Court. After the death of Sir William Jones in 1794 some inconvenience was felt in this respect. Besides, books, papers, records, etc. had accumulated and required a permanent accommodation. In 1796 the Society resolved that an application should be made to the Government for the grant of a free site for a house and that the members should pay a quarterly subscription of one gold mohur each and entrance fee of two gold mohurs which, accumulating for a few years, would yield a sufficient sum to cover the expense of building a house. A second application was made in 1804 for a spot of land at the corner of Park Street, which had before been in the possession of a Riding School but had reverted to Government, and in 1805 the Government Granted it with the exception of a small portion on the western side. This portion was also made over to the Society by the Government in 1849 and had later on been leased out to Messrs. Standard Vacuum Oil Company.

In 1805 the Society undertook to have a building for its own use. The building was completed in 1808 and the Society took possession of it early that year.

Although built at the cost, and for the exclusive use of the Society, the building has always been accessible to various literary and scientific organisations for their activities and their lectures.

In its rooms the Society had a small, but very valuable and select, collection of oil paintings and busts, the memorials of many great men, whose labours contributed so largely to establish and sustain the

renown of the Society. Many memorials are of a miscellaneous character and most of them belonged at one time to the studio of Robert Home, a reputed English artist in India of the first quarter of the nineteenth Century, who took an active interest in the affairs of the Society. Many of the paintings were from his own brush, while among others there were originals by Rubens, Guido, Domenichino, Reynolds, Canaletti, and Kettle. From other sources, the Society had received originals by Chinnery, Poe, Daniel, Say etc. The Society's collection of paintings and busts may be said to be of rare interest in this country.

For the last fifty five years, the accommodation in that building, though large and commodious, was being felt to be inadequate for the growing needs of the Society. The question of erecting a new building had been coming up for consideration from time to time in 1902, 1903, 1911, 1914, 1920, 1921, 1924, 1931, 1946, 1948, 1949, 1950 and 1951. No proposal, however, could materialise due to one reason or another, the chief among which was the difficulty of making necessary financial arrangements and of providing accommodation for the Library and office during the period that would be required for the new building to be completed. After a careful consideration of all aspects of the various proposals, the Society at last decided for the erection of a multi-storied building on Society's land at 1A, Park Street. The construction of the new building was undertaken in stages with the help of grants from the Government of India to the extent of Rs. 11 lakhs. Although a provision was made for a building of 9 storeys, only four storeys have been constructed. As and when funds become available, the remaining storeys are to be completed. The new building was inaugurated on the 22nd February, 1965, by the President of India. The ground floor of the building has been rented out at an annual rent of Rs. 1,20,000.

Activities and Achievements

36. The activities and achievements of the Asiatic Society have been stated to be as follows:—

(a) Library and Research

The Society has built up a very rich and varied Library in fulfilment of its special role in the domain of Literary and scientific studies. It consists of several sections. The General Section comprises printed books and manuscripts in European languages numbering more than 1,00,000 volumes. The printed books in this section range in date from the latter half of the fifteenth century A.D. and one of

the special features consists in the many items of rare works, otherwise unavailable, or scarcely available.

The Sanskrit Section comprises printed books and manuscripts in Sanskrit and Sanskritic languages. Particularly valuable is the magnificent collection of manuscripts, which range in date from the seventh century A.D. Rich and varied in textual contents the collection is an epitome of India's achievements in different spheres of life and learning. Every language and every script of India is represented in this unique collection, and every aspect of Indological studies as well. No less interesting are the manuscripts with fine miniature illustrations which go back as early as the 10th Century A.D.

The Islamic Section comprises printed books and manuscripts in languages of the Islamic world, Arabic, Persian, Turkish, Pushtu, etc. The manuscripts in this section range in date from the first quarter of the 12th century A.D. Rich and varied in textual contents they cover every branch of Islamic history and learning, a good many of the manuscripts being extremely rare and, not unoften, unique. Very fine calligraphic writing is a special feature of this collection, while a few bear miniature paintings of pleasing quality and style. Some of the items in this collection belonged to the Mughal Imperial Library.

The Sino-Tibetan Section comprises manuscripts and xylographs in Chinese and Tibetan. The Chinese manuscripts relate to Chinese translation of the Indian Buddhist texts, while in the Tibetan group the Society has the entire set of the Kangyur and the Bstangyur, besides also individual xylographs and manuscripts.

The Society's Library possesses also manuscripts works in Burmese, Siamese, Javanese, etc., and they are interesting for studies in the history and culture of these countries.

The Copperplates and Coins Section possesses copperplate inscriptions and a few thousands of coins. The copperplates range in date from the 3rd Century B.C. to the 18th Century A.D. and represent important documents for a study of Indian history and culture. Up till 1906 the coins acquired by the Society had been made over to the Indian Museum and the present collection represents accessions after that date. The coins in the Society's collection cover practically the whole range of the Indian numismatics from the earliest issues to the latest.

The Library extends facilities to members of the Society and scholars, visiting the Library from different States of India and abroad. Books and manuscripts are also lent out. A fully equipped:

Photographic Section to enable the Society to supply microfilm copies at cheaper rates has been set up.

Out of an annual grant of the West Bengal Government, the Society created in 1946 four Research Fellowships for (i) Sanskrit, (ii) Buddhistic, (iii) Epigraphic and Numismatic, and (iv) Islamic Studies, named respectively after Sir William Jones, Raja Rajendralal Mitra, James Prinsep and R. G. Casey*. Two units of History of Science, Ancient Period, are working at the Asiatic Society and are being given facilities in respect of accommodation and use of the Library.

(b) *Publications*

The most important of the Society's activities is the publication of the *Bibliotheca Indica* which consists of a series of oriental texts in Sanskrit, Arabic, Persian and other Eastern Languages and their translations. This series now covers several hundreds of individual works. It was under the initiative of this Society that studies in Tibetan and Tibetology were first initiated.

In addition to the above, several oriental works have been published either with the aid, or under the supervision of this Society. Moreover, a large number of reports on the search for manuscripts have come out under the superintendence of the Society and they have been instrumental in resuscitating the varied literature of the Indians from oblivion. The Society also publishes a journal (*Journal of the Asiatic Society*), *Bibliographs* and *Monographs*.

(c) *Exhibitions*

The Society also organises exhibitions of rare books and manuscripts. Exhibition of rare books and manuscripts were organised in 1963-64 in connection with the visits of foreign delegates. The Society sent seven manuscripts to the exhibition headed by the 26th International Congress of Orientalists at New Delhi. An exhibition on the life and works of Dr. Sarvapalli Radhakrishnan, Dr. Albert Schweitzer and Sri Nandalal Bose (recipients of Rabindranath Tagore Birth Centenary Plaques for the year 1962, 1963 and 1964) was organised on the occasion of the inauguration ceremony of the new building in February 22, 1965.

(d) *Museum*

As early as 1837 the Society proposed to the Government for the establishment of a Public Museum at Calcutta. The proposal was

*Rt. Hon. Richard G. Casey was Governor of Bengal during 1944-46. At present he is Governor-General of the Commonwealth of Australia.

repeated in 1857 and it was further strengthened by the offer of its own collections if the Government would be agreeable to establish an Imperial Museum at Calcutta. After protracted negotiations the Government agreed to found a Public Museum at Calcutta and the Indian Museum of Calcutta came into being by the Act of 1866. The Society made over its valuable collections to form the nucleus of this Museum. It was the Asiatic Society which had built up a Museum of varied interests pertaining to all branches of sciences and humanities and but for its persistent activities the Indian Museum would not have come into being, nor could it have reached its present position but for the Society's voluntary offer of its own substantial collections. It is to be noted that the Asiatic Society did the pioneering work for the setting up of museums in India.

(e) *Scientific Studies*

Being one of the oldest scientific institutions in the world, the Asiatic Society is said to have initiated scientific researches in India on western lines. The Society's Transactions and Journal constituted the principal channels of communication for studies in Mathematical and Physical Sciences (including meteorology, tidal observations, laws of storms, electrical researches, etc.) Geology (stratigraphical and dynamical), and in Mineralogy, Zoology, Botany (including Palaeo-Botany), Geography, Ethnology, Chemistry, etc. The Centenary volume of the Society, published in 1885 in Commemoration of the completion of its hundred years of existence, summarises the activities of the Society in scientific researches and the Journal and Memories, published since then, continue the tradition already established. Every branch of scientific activity in India owed its start to the Asiatic Society which had made important and valuable contributions in every field.

(f) *Humanistic Studies*

It goes to the credit of the Asiatic Society that it started and initiated investigations, on modern lines, on every aspect of humanistic studies in India. In the field of language, Literature and Philology it has made the most important contributions, so also in History, Art and Archaeology in Epigraphy, Palaeography and Numismatics, in Religion, Philosophy and Folk-lore, etc. It is to the exertions of the Asiatic Society that Europe owes the discovery of Sanskrit and the birth of the science of Comparative Philology. The reconstruction of the History of India, her institutions—social and religious—and, to a certain extent, of the History of Asia and Asiatic lore has largely been the result of the activities of the Asiatic Society. Indian archae-

ology owes much to the Asiatic Society and it was through the Society's contributions that the grant and magnificent monuments of India and of neighbouring countries came to be known to the outside world. The Asiatic Society started epigraphical and palaeographical studies and such studies became surely founded by the decipherment of the Brahmi script by James Prinsep in 1837 at the Asiatic Society. This is also the case with reference to numismatic studies.

(g) Preservation and Cataloguing:

A study Group of the Estimates Committee visited the Museum of the Asiatic Society on the 25th June, 1966 and were greatly impressed by the collection of rare and invaluable manuscripts, plates, copper plates, coins, etc. Tibetan Xylographs, paintings and printed books and journals relating to various subjects on Indology including Buddhistic, Islamic, Numismatic and epigraphic studies.

It was, however, brought to the notice of the Study Group that with a view to preserve the old manuscripts, air-conditioning of rooms was considered to be a necessity, but in the absence of sufficient funds at the disposal of the Society it had not been possible to do so. It was stated that a proposal had been submitted to the Government of India through the West Bengal Government and the matter was receiving consideration. The Study Group were further informed that in the absence of a trained full-time Curator, the condition of the old valuable manuscripts was deteriorating. The Study Group noted that there was no upto-date catalogue of the articles kept in the Society Museum, but efforts were being made to prepare an upto-date catalogue as early as possible.

Finance

37. The Society is running with a deficit budget. The recurring expenditure is met mainly from the membership fee and the rental income which is received by the Society for letting out a portion of its building. The Budget Estimates for 1966 show on the revenue side Rs. 1,54,500 and on the expenditure side Rs. 2,56,820.84.

Besides receiving grants from the State Government, the Society has received grants from the Central Government the details of which are given in Appendix VI.

The financial difficulties of the Society have been highlighted in its Annual Report for 1965 in the following terms:

"The high rates and the ever increasing expenses of the Society have been a cause for worry to the Council. In:

order to augment the income of the Society almost the whole of the ground floor has been let out to the Central Bank of India and Messrs. Singer Sewing Machine Company. We appreciate the help we have received from the Government of India and the Government of West Bengal. The Society, however, is not yet in a position to support itself and the Council may find it necessary to approach the Government again for financial help in order to enable it to carry on its normal activities, and to take up new schemes of scholarly work."

Pay Scales

38. The Study Group of the Estimates Committee which visited the Asiatic Society in June, 1966 were informed that the pay of the staff was very low. It has been represented to the Committee that "there has not been any substantial change in the scale of pay of the staff as introduced in 1947. Bearer, peon, mali, sweeper, etc. get Rs. 20 p.m. as their basic salary; Office Assistants get Rs. 60 and Rs. 75 p.m. as their basic salary. The pay of the worker serving the Society for 16-17 years does not even amount to Rs. 70. The Librarian, the Deputy Librarian and the Assistant Librarians get Rs. 300, Rs. 200 and Rs. 125 respectively as basic salary per month; the Superintendent gets Rs. 250 and the Publication Assistant gets Rs. 125 at their initial stages."

During the course of evidence, the representative of the Ministry of Education admitted that the pay scales of the staff were very low. So far as aid was concerned, he stated that the "Government of India will always be prepared to consider a legitimate request. But of course the Society ultimately should stand on its own legs. That is the view that is normally taken." He further stated that until a year ago, the Government of India had a representative on the Society but the representative was withdrawn inasmuch as the Society's meetings were held every month and the attendance of a representative of the Central Government would have cost Rs. 6000 per annum. Moreover the Government of India had already given quite a substantial financial aid, and it was felt that the Society should be in a position to look after itself better.'

The Committee are unhappy that a society like the Asiatic Society, which has been a pioneer institution in the field of scientific and humanistic studies in this country for more than a century and half, and has fostered the first museum in India, has not received sufficient and legitimate encouragement from the Government.

In view of the fact that the Society is running at a deficit and has no sources of income other than the income from the rent that it receives, the Committee feel that the Government should render adequate financial assistance to it by way of maintenance grant. The very fact that the Society has been compelled to let out a portion of its building on rent goes to show that it stands in dire need of financial assistance. The Ministry of Education which has the primary responsibility for fostering the growth of the museums and of learned societies, in this country should take more active interest in fostering the activities of the Society.

The Committee regret to learn that the Union Government have withdrawn its representative on the Council of the Society to save Rs. 6000 per annum to be spent for sending an official from Delhi. The Committee feel that the Government could have nominated as their representative, some Central Government Officer posted at Calcutta or even some eminent non-official of Calcutta. The Committee would like to stress that Government should take more active interest in this matter.

The Committee do not find any justification for giving a building grant of Rs. 11 lakhs to the Society if the Government have not appreciated the utility of this body and its proper functioning. The Committee think that the Government, before making that building grant, should have ensured the proper functioning of the Society and of proper utilisation of its collections.

The Committee further feel that it is not quite proper for the Government to ask a learned Society like the Asiatic Society to maintain itself or to allow its valuable and rare collections to go waste and deteriorates. The Committee would like to impress that the collections in the Society are the precious property of the nation and the Government should have taken active interest in the maintenance and proper utilisation of the collected materials.

The Committee are unhappy about the low pay-scales of the staff and recommend that the Government should look into the matter and will help the Asiatic Society to take effective steps to improve the pay-scales and service conditions of all categories of staff employed therein.

The Committee attach great importance to the preservation of valuable manuscripts which are kept in Asiatic Society. Arrangements should therefore be made to utilise the services of the UNESCO Unit, Calcutta, for micro-filming and preservation of the documents

that are in the custody of the Society. The Conservation work of Society also requires closer attention; and arrangements may be made, in consultation with the Indian Museum, Calcutta and the Asiatic Society, for renovating such of the manuscripts as stand in need of restoration. There should be close collaboration between the Indian Museum, Calcutta and the Asiatic Society on the technical, professional and academic level. The Committee hope that the Asiatic Society on its part will take energetic steps to prepare a comprehensive catalogue of all the manuscripts and other articles which it has in its possession.

The Committee are not happy about the present organisational and administrative set-up of the Society and would suggest that an early review may be made in this direction. They would also urge that in view of its importance as a learned Society, the Government should have a more direct and active role to play in its organisation and administration.

CHAPTER III

VICTORIA MEMORIAL HALL MUSEUM, CALCUTTA

A. Genesis and Objectives

Brief History

39. The Victoria Memorial Hall Museum owes its origin to Lord Curzon, the then Viceroy of India, who proposed after the death of Queen Victoria that a building in her name might be constructed to serve the purpose of a historical museum. The princess and people of India responded generously to his appeal for funds and the total cost of construction of the monument amounting to one crore and five lakhs of rupees was entirely derived from their voluntary subscriptions. The building was started in 1904 and was finally opened to the public in December, 1921.

40. The Museum is administered by a Board of Trustees constituted under Victoria Memorial Act, 1903 (Act X of 1903). The President of India is the President of the Board of Trustees. An Executive Committee of the Board of Trustees of which the Governor of West Bengal is the Chairman transacts the detailed business of the Museum.

41. The collections in the Museum relate to Indian History from the 16th to the 20th century. The Persian manuscripts include Aini-Akbari by Abul Fazal, Akbarnama, Firdausi's Saha Namah, translation into Persian of Nal-Damayanti by Abul Fazal, Tipu Sultan's letters etc. There are some Mughal and Rajasthani miniature paintings. The Museum also has some valuable documents relating to the British period of Indian history as well as portraits, statues, oil paintings and engravings of famous persons of the 16th and 19th centuries. Then the history of the growth of the city of Calcutta is well illustrated by paintings, drawings and engravings showing the state of Calcutta at different stages in its development. The arms and armours are of great historical importance.

Objectives

42. The Victoria Memorial Hall Museum is stated to be a historical Museum depicting the history of medieval and modern India.

Mughal and Rajput paintings and illuminated Persian manuscripts disseminate knowledge about medieval India. Pictures and statues of those who played a prominent part in the history of India during the 18th and 19th centuries and the original manuscripts relating to the British period enable the visitors to recount the events of that period. It has been stated during evidence by the representative of the Ministry of Education that the Museum was being developed as a modern History Museum as recommended by the Expert Museum Survey Committee (1955).

The Committee, however, note that the Preamble to the Victoria Memorial Act 1903 (as amended by Act 58 of 1960) makes no mention about the objectives of the Museum. The general public associates the Museum with the name of Queen Victoria whose memory it perpetuates but it has no vivid idea about the collections or the functions of the Museum. The Committee hope that an early opportunity would be taken to define its basic objective by a Government Resolution so that the Museum may be developed as a Modern Historical Museum of the country. The Committee also suggest that the activities of the Museum should be widely publicised.

Nature of Collections

43. It has been brought to the notice of the Committee by a leading museologist that, "Certainly at present the exhibits do not present a balanced picture of Indian history (including social, political and cultural activities) from the advent of the East India Company or during the British Rule. Probably research in U.K. in the India Office Library and in the archives of the British Government could furnish additional pertinent material, which would, at least in photographs and photostats, be added to the collections as research and reference material for this Museum. Also, of course, the scope of the Museum could be enlarged to include the later periods of history, the struggle for Independence and the long period of preparation for it in Bengal or whatever segment of history is to be derived from the present nucleus collection and to be built upon it."

The Committee have been informed during evidence that the Victoria Memorial Hall Museum contains valuable manuscripts which throw light on the renaissance movement in India. For instance, "there is Foster's English-Bengali dictionary which was the first English-Bengali dictionary. Then, there is a manuscript volume of the laws of Manu translated by Sir William Jones with the assistance of his teacher. That voluminous manuscript is on show there. Then, there is *Digdarshan* and things like that.

There is another wonderful thing on show here. Pandit Ishwar-chandra Vidyasagar's own handwriting is on display here. He was obviously consulting the shastras to find out what they said about widow remarriage."

Asked whether any concerted steps have been made to collect all the manuscripts of Vidyasagar and other renaissance leaders like Michael Madhusudan Dutt, Rajendralal Mitra, Bankim Chandra Chatterjee, Harish Mukherjee and others either by the Indian Museum, Calcutta or by the Victoria Memorial Hall Museum, the representative of the Victoria Memorial Hall Museum stated that "I have made some personal efforts in these matters for the Victoria Memorial. Only recently I collected the manuscript of Deshbandhu Chittaranjan Das's Poem, *Kishore Kishori*. I have approached another gentleman for Vidyasagar's manuscript but I have not been able to secure it as yet." The representative of the Indian Museum Calcutta informed the Committee that this matter was outside the scope of the Indian Museum, Calcutta, inasmuch as it exhibited collections of pre-1857 period.

The Committee regret that even after 19 years of independence the Victoria Memorial Hall Museum is still continuing to present only one side of the shield namely, the British side and almost nothing substantial has been done to exhibit the other side, i.e. the Indian side. In cultural, religious, political, journalistic and literary fields, eminent Indians have played a significant role from the days of the East India Company. The Committee feel that the Government should immediately take steps to make the Victoria Memorial Hall Museum a well-balanced institution containing exhibits relating to modern Indian history. In this connection, the Committee also suggest that the Victoria Memorial Hall Museum should endeavour to collect the manuscripts and other exhibits connected with the political and cultural renaissance movement with particular reference to the regions in the Eastern Zone. The Agrarian movement against the Indigo planters of Bengal and Bihar, which might be called a turning point in the political movement in India, should have received some attention.

B. Organisational Set-up

Board of Trustees

44. The Victoria Memorial Hall Museum is administered by a Board of Trustees constituted under the Victoria Memorial Act, 1903 (Act X of 1903). The Trustees are appointed for a period of

five years and are eligible for re-appointment. Section 2(2) of the Act says that, "The Trustees shall be a body corporate with perpetual succession by the name of 'The Trustees of the Victoria Memorial' and a common seal, and in that name shall sue and be sued, and shall have power to acquire and hold property, to enter into contracts, and to do all acts necessary for and consistent with the purposes of this Act."

A list of present members of the Board of Trustees is enclosed (Appendix VII). The Board also appoints an Executive Committee from amongst its Members to transact the day to day business of the Museum.

It has been stated by a leading museologist that, "Representation to the Board of Trustees of Victoria Memorial Hall is confined to a group of Industrialists and businessmen with scarcely any scholars and museum experts. As a general principle, the Museum Trustees should include the representatives of the Museum Association of India, the Regional Museums Association and a few recognised scholars and museum experts not represented in the Trust."

Asked during evidence why it has not been possible to reorganise the Board of Trustees for all these years and the old pattern has been allowed to be continued, the representative of the Ministry of Education stated that, "We are seized of this problem and the Governor who is the President of the Board of Trustees has been requested."

The Committee regret that even after 19 years of independence no steps have been taken to reorganise the Board of Trustees, which, as at present constituted, is not likely to inspire much confidence and give a lead in the all-round development of the Museum. The Committee hope that immediate steps will be taken to reorganise the Board of Trustees so as to make it a suitable organ for running a learned body in which the representatives of Museum Association of India, Indian Museum, Calcutta, the Ashutosh Museum of Calcutta University, the Central and the State Governments interested (i.e. of the Eastern Zone) may be included. If necessary, the relevant Act may be suitably amended to meet this purpose.

C. Acquisition

Acquisition

45. The Study Group of the Estimates Committee which visited the Victoria Memorial Hall Museum in June, 1966 were informed that

there were 296 light paintings, 1,077 water colour paintings, 1,696 engravings etc., 398 documents, 265 arms and ammunition, 526 medals and coins, 41 statues, 28 busts and 293 miscellaneous articles, making a total of 4,620 exhibits in all.

It has been stated by a leading museologist that, "Certainly the collections are not complete or systematic and the Museum must still have need to acquire whatever comes on the market or is offered as gifts. In this respect, of not having a complete and systematic collection of its field's material, the Victoria Memorial Hall Museum is no different from museums in general no matter what their scope; to some extent collections grow haphazardly. However, by careful planning gaps can be filled in many cases. . . ."

The Committee have been informed during evidence that apart from the paintings of national leaders and one or two manuscripts, no acquisitions have been made in the recent past. The Committee have also been informed that a provision of Rs. 20,000 has been made in the Budget for the current year for the acquisition of new oil painting of national leaders.

The Committee are unhappy to note that the Victoria Memorial Hall Museum which is expected to be developed as a Museum of Modern History has not during the recent years acquired any exhibit of historical value so as to give the collections a diversity and richness that the Museum deserves. They also feel that the amount placed at the disposal of the Museum for the acquisition of exhibits is rather meagre. The Committee hope that Government would see to it that the development of the Museum is not regarded either due to lack of funds or initiative and eagerness to enrich the collections—in different directions namely, historical, social, political and cultural.

Gallery of National Leaders

46. The Committee have been informed during evidence that the Victoria Memorial Hall Museum has started a gallery containing portraits of the national leaders with a view to maintain continuity of history till modern times. This gallery is separate from the portrait gallery of eminent Indians who played a notable part in the 19th century Indian history, namely, Dwarkanath Tagore, Keshab Chandra Sen, Michael Madhusudan Dutt, Dr. Alexander Dutt, Rawlinson, etc. The Committee have also been informed that the gallery of portraits, of national leaders contains portraits, amongst others of Raja Ram Mohan Roy, Ishwara Chandra Vidyasagar, Dadabhai Naoroji, Surendranath Bannerjee, Swami Vivekananda, Motilal Nehru and Gandhiji. The painting of a portrait of Jawaharlal Nehru has been under-

taken recently. The portrait of Dr. B. C. Roy is said to be nearing completion.

Asked whether there would be any portrait of revolutionaries like Jatin Mukherjee, Khudiram, Surya Sen, Bhagat Singh and others, the representative of the Victoria Memorial Hall Museum stated during evidence that "Their portraits have not yet been taken up, but they will be taken up gradually."

The Committee wanted to know if any criteria have been laid down in selecting the portraits of those who have taken part in Independence struggle from the early British days and they were informed that "The idea is rather to illustrate the new awakening of India and so the gallery has started with a very big life-size portrait of Raja Ram Mohan Roy." It has also been stated that the Purchase and Exhibition Committee, which is a sub-committee of the Board of Trustees, decides on the pictures that have to be painted and to be taken up next for painting. It was further stated that the Board of Trustees have always insisted that the paintings of the national leaders should be real pieces of art.

The Committee regret to note that no criteria have been laid down in regard to the selection of portraits of national leaders for display in the Gallery of the Victoria Memorial Hall Museum. The Committee are also distressed that the Central Government has not deemed it necessary to give any directives to the authorities of the Victoria Memorial Hall Museum in regard to the selection of portraits of India's national leaders. The Committee would suggest that Government may immediately constitute a Selection Committee consisting of eminent historians, public men (including Members of Parliament), representative of the Central and State Governments, with a view to draw up a list of national leaders whose portraits could find a place in the Gallery of the Victoria Memorial Hall Museum. The Selection Committee may also select the artists who should execute the work.

Stock-taking

47. It has been stated that the physical verification of the objects, whether on display or in stores is done annually with reference to stock registers. No shortages have been found. However, the Study Group of the Estimates Committee which visited Victoria Memorial Hall Museum in June, 1966 were informed that, "The present stock Registers of Exhibits are incomplete in as much as they are of very little help in checking and verifying the exhibits in the galleries and stores. This is due to a lack in the Registers of the specific items of

information indispensable for identification. Besides, the Stock Registers should also indicate the location of an exhibit in the gallery or stores along with the identification number in the catalogue. The Government of India also desires, on the recommendation of the Central Advisory Board of Museums, that a standardised form of stock register should be maintained in all statutory galleries and museums. In the circumstances a standardised Stock Register, after a thorough checking and stock-taking has to be prepared incorporating all the necessary information."

The Committee cannot overemphasise the necessity of preparing standardised Stock Register so that stock taking could be done methodically to avoid possible pilferage or loss of exhibits. They would urge that adequate assistance be provided to the Museum in this regard.

D. Display

Lighting arrangements and labelling

48. It has been alleged by a leading museologist that, "The galleries of the Victoria Memorial Hall suffer from a serious want of sufficient light, specially during the rainy season and winter months causing a bad visibility of the objects specially the paintings. It is very surprising that the Trustees of the Victoria Memorial on several occasions are understood to have rejected the suggestions of utilisation of artificial lighting of the galleries. The mode of display there is very backdated without any relevance to the modern scientific methods of museum display. . . .the mode of exhibition in Victoria Memorial Hall has not changed for last thirty years."

Asked to clarify the position, the Victoria Memorial Hall Museum has stated in a written note that, "The mode of display cannot be termed as backdated or unsatisfactory. It may be, however, improved if adequate funds are provided. Light is generally adequate except on very cloudy days during the rainy season. No formal complaint has been received in this regard. The architectural peculiarities of the building and its massive strong walls do not easily permit electrification of the Galleries."

The Study Group of the Estimates Committee which visited the Victoria Memorial Hall Museum during June, 1966 observed that only the names of the British Generals and Viceroys have been shown below their respective statues but no indication has been given about their achievements. Asked whether all the old labels

on the exhibits have been replaced, the Victoria Memorial Hall Museum has stated in a written note that, "This work has been undertaken though the progress is not as rapid as desirable. This is due to shortage of assistants."

The Committee desire that immediate steps should be taken to effect improvements in the method of display in the Victoria Memorial Hall Museum and for this purpose the Government/Museum may seek the advice of some of the eminent museologists in the country. The Committee also feel that old labels on the exhibits should be replaced by printed labels containing additional information as early as possible.

The Committee would suggest that Government may explore the feasibility of keeping in the Victoria Memorial Hall Museum or any other suitable place the statues of the British and other foreign dignitaries which have been removed from public places all over the country.

E. Conservation

Conservation Departments

49. The Committee have been informed during evidence that the Conservation Department of the Victoria Memorial Hall Museum is working very satisfactorily. There are an Assistant Conservator and a Repairer to look after the repair and rehabilitation of documents and manuscripts of the Victoria Memorial Hall Museum. There is also an Artist Restorer designated as 'Picture and Print Repairer' who is responsible for repair and restoration of paintings (oil and water colour) prints and engravings, etc. Asked to state why it was necessary to develop a conservation Department in this Museum when there was already such a Department in the Indian Museum, Calcutta and when the two museums were situated nearby, the representative of the Victoria Memorial Hall Museum stated during evidence that, "...the day-to-day requirements of the museum has to be met."

The Committee also understand that some of the manuscripts kept in the Museum have started fading away. When asked about this, the representative of the Victoria Memorial Hall Museum stated during evidence that, "...we have prepared the photostat copies of all manuscripts."

While the Committee realise that for day-to-day conservation work there is a need for having a small conservation cell in the Victoria Memorial Hall Museum, they feel that for major conservation

works, the Museum should utilise the facilities available at the Indian Museum, Calcutta. In fact, the Conservation Department of the Indian Museum should be able to render expert advice to the conservation staff of the Victoria Memorial Hall Museum and also train them in conservation techniques.

The Committee are unhappy to learn that valuable manuscripts of the Victoria Memorial Hall Museum are fading due to lack of proper conservation. The Committee would urge that immediate steps should be taken to renovate such manuscripts so that they may not be permanently lost to the Museum. The Committee would like to stress that though photostat copies are necessary, these cannot be expected to substitute the originals and as such, efforts should continue to be made for conservation of the original manuscripts.

F. Educational Facilities

Present educational facilities

50. It has been stated that individual and group labels imparting important historical information have been introduced and introductory labels will be displayed with a view to depict the history of modern India vividly in this Museum. Besides there is a free guide service. The Guide Lecturer conducts visitors who include school and college students through the galleries and explain to them the importance of each exhibit.

It has also been stated that students from different educational institutions come to visit the galleries under the guidance of their teachers. The Guide Lecturer conducts them round and explains the significance of the exhibits with reference to the history of modern India. Recently, a lecturer of the Calcutta University Postgraduate Department delivered a series of lectures in the Museum on Mediaeval paintings and illustrated his lectures from the Mughal paintings. Principals of colleges have also been invited to send batches of students having honours in History under their teachers to the Museum to see the historical documents and pictures.

The Committee commend the educational programmes undertaken by the Victoria Memorial Hall Museum. They hope that these programmes will be further intensified and strengthened.

Present Research Facilities

51. The Study Group of the Estimates Committee which visited the Victoria Memorial Hall Museum in June, 1966 were informed

that there were no facilities for conducting research in the Museum. There was no room where the research students could work. There were also no facilities for guiding the research students.

Asked whether the Museum has organised any Exhibitions, Seminars or Symposia, the representative of the Victoria Memorial Hall Museum stated during evidence that in 1957, the Museum organised an Exhibition of documents relating to the Indian uprising of 1857. Nothing was put on the Exhibition depicting the Indian side of the picture. The Committee have been told that there were no exhibits of Indian leaders of the rising like Nana Sahib, Tantia Tope, Rani Lakshmi Bai or Kunwar Singh.

The Committee feel that the Victoria Memorial Hall Museum with its varied collections relating to the British period of Indian history is capable of being and should be developed for purposes of research in modern Indian history. The Committee suggest that a comprehensive programme for research may be drawn up in conjunction with the University of Calcutta and other universities. In order to provide facilities for research, the Victoria Memorial Hall Museum Library should be enlarged so as to include comprehensive collections on modern Indian history. The Museum should have a qualified Librarian to cater to the needs of the research scholars. More reading space should be provided for the research scholars visiting the Museum for purposes of study.

The Committee note that the Victoria Memorial Hall Museum has not organised any exhibition since 1957. Even the exhibition that was held in that year was one sided inasmuch as only the British side of the 1857 uprising was shown. The Committee suggest that the Victoria Memorial Hall Museum should be helped to acquire and exhibit some pictures, books, documents etc. showing the Indian side of the 1857 rising. The Committee would further urge that the Government should provide adequate facilities to the Victoria Memorial Hall Museum for organising exhibitions on modern and contemporary history at regular intervals.

Publications

52. It has been stated that no publications have been brought out by the Victoria Memorial Hall Museum during the last five years. Only the manuscript for an illustrated guide books has been prepared.

So far as picture post cards are concerned, the Victoria Memorial Hall Museum published them many years ago. They are now

said to be out of stock and have not been reprinted for want of funds.

The Committee are unhappy to note that the Victoria Memorial Hall Museum has not brought out any publication for many years. The Committee cannot overemphasise the importance of bringing out an illustrated guide book and a catalogue for the use of the visitors as well as research scholars. The Committee hope that Government would see to it that these publications are brought out without delay.

The Committee cannot appreciate the argument of the Victoria Memorial Hall Museum authorities that they could not publish the picture post cards for want of funds; rather the Committee feel that these picture post cards could have brought in some additional revenue. The Committee suggest that Victoria Memorial Hall Museum should bring out multi-coloured picture post cards which have great attraction for the tourists.

Number of Visitors

53. The number of visitors to the Victoria Memorial Hall Museum during each of the last 5 years and the income from the entrance fee charged from them have been indicated in the statement given below:

Year	No. of Visitors	Entrance fees
		Rs.
1961-62	3,00,000	88,598
1962-63	3,55,000	92,875
1963-64	3,50,000	91,502
1964-65	4,00,000	1,07,793
1965-66	3,65,000	95,820

It has been stated that the Museum is open from 10.00 hours to 17.00 hours during the summer term:—(from 1st March to 31st October) and from 10.00 hours to 16.00 hours during the winter term (from 1st November to 28th February). An entrance fee of 25 paise per head for adults and 12 paise per head for children below the age of 7 years is charged on all days, except Mondays when the Museum is fully closed and on Fridays when double fee is charged, i.e. 50 paise per head for adults and 25 paise per head for children below the age of 7 years.

The Committee have been further informed that there is no suggestion or complaint book kept in the Museum but a responsible officer under the Curator personally attends to complaints if made by the visitors.

The Committee note with regret that during these five years, the number of visitors has remained more or less stationary in spite of large expansion of education and increase in number of literate people. The Committee can come to only one conclusion that the authorities have not made any serious effort to attract visitors and to popularise the Museum.

The Committee suggest that concerted drive should be made to publicize the activities and importance of the Victoria Memorial Hall Museum so as to attract more visitors to this important historical Museum. The Committee also suggest that a complaint or suggestion book should be kept at the Museum where the visitors could register their views and impressions about the Museum. The Committee feel that special lectures and symposia by eminent persons organised in the Museum may be utilised for popularising the Museum and attracting more visitors.

G. Finance

Financial Assistance

54. The quantum of the financial assistance received by the Victoria Memorial Hall Museum during each of the last 5 years from various sources is indicated in the statement given below:—

Year	Central Government	State Government	Other Sources (Entry fee and other receipts)
	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
1961-62 .	1,88,921	25,000	1,08,766
1962-63 .	1,87,100	25,000	1,03,146
1963-64 .	2,18,660	25,000	1,10,199
1964-65 .	2,06,691	25,000	1,32,843
1965-66 .	2,16,000	25,000	1,46,166

The percentage of the revenue spent on (i) administration (staff), (ii) maintenance; (iii) acquisition of objects; (iv) preservation of objects; (v) purchase of books and equipment; (vi) Research, and (vii) miscellaneous during each of the last 5 years has been stated to be as under:—

Head	1961- 62	1962- 63	1963- 64	1964- 65	1965- 66
	%	%	%	%	%
(i) Administration (Staff)	55	71	60	61	66
(ii) Maintenance and up-keep of the Building .	Nil	10.53	0.60	3.17	13.56
(iii) Acquisition of objects	3.90	Nil	Nil	Nil	0.13
(iv) Preservation of objects	3	4	3	3	4
(v) Purchase of books and equipments	0.69	Nil	0.54	0.02	Nil
(vi) Research	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
(vii) Miscellaneous	41.41	18.47	38.86	35.81	20.31

It has been alleged by a leading museologist that in the Victoria Memorial Hall Museum, more amount is spent for the maintenance of the garden than the museum proper. When asked during evidence whether it was true, the representative of the Victoria Memorial Hall Museum replied in the affirmative.

The Committee are unhappy to note that the expenditure being incurred by the Victoria Memorial Hall Museum on acquisition and preservation of art objects, purchase of books and equipment etc. is negligible as compared to the expenditure being incurred on staff. They are all the more unhappy to note that nothing has been provided for research work and more amount is spent for the maintenance of the garden than the Museum proper. The Committee feel that expenditure on the maintenance of the garden should not be a charge on the Museum but it should be met out of a separate grant to be given to the Museum for the purpose. It should, however, be ensured that the garden is not neglected and is properly maintained. The Committee would like the Ministry of Education to go carefully into the budget of the Museum so as to ensure that the amounts are spent

properly and in keeping with the needs of the Museum before sanctioning the grants.

Amounts lying in London

55. It has been stated that Lord Curzon raised and collected a sum of £20,076-13-8d in England and formed it into an Endowment Fund. It was held by him in his own name. After his death his executors in accordance with his wishes transferred the said Fund to the name of Earl of Lytton, the then Governor of Bengal, as the Trustee of the said Fund. The power to appoint a new Trustee of the Fund was vested in the Trustee, so that no person might be appointed as Trustee of the Fund other than the Governor of Bengal for the time being. The income from this fund could be expended by the Trustee for the purchase of objects of interest or art or for the adornment or completion of the Victoria Memorial Hall. The balance in current account of the said fund as on the 30th June, 1966 was £105-16-1d and in Accumulated Interest Investment Account £5,711-15-4d. This account is with the State Bank of India, London.

Asked during evidence whether any steps have been taken to transfer the amount to India, the representative of the Victoria Memorial Hall Museum replied in the negative.

The Committee are constrained to note that a large amount, which was intended for the purchase of objects of interest or art or for the adornment or completion of the Victoria Memorial Hall Museum, has been allowed to accumulate in the Endowment Fund now held with the State Bank of India, London. They are unhappy that no steps have been taken by the Government to have the funds transferred to India for being spent for the development of the Museum. The Committee would stress the need for the early transfer of the funds from London so that they could be utilised for the betterment of the Museum.

NEW DELHI;
June 7, 1967.

Jyaishta 17, 1889 (Saka).

P. VENKATASUBBAIAH,
Chairman,
Estimates Committee.

APPENDIX I

(vide Para 9 of the Report)

Board of Trustees of the Indian Museum, Calcutta

- | | | |
|--|---|-------------|
| 1. Smt. Padmaja Naidu,
Governor of West Bengal. | Chairman | Ex-officio. |
| 2. Dr. B. Malik,
Vice-Chancellor,
Calcutta University. | Vice-Chiarman | „ |
| 3. Dr. P. K. Roy Choudhury,
Mayor, Calcutta Corporation. | Member | „ |
| 4. Shri S. C. Bhattacharyya,
Accountant-General,
West Bengal. | „ | „ |
| 5. Shri A. K. Ghosh,
Secretary to the Govt. of India, Minis-
try of Education, New Delhi. | „ | „ |
| 6. Dr. A. Aiyappan,
Head of the Department of Anthropo-
logy, Utkal University, Orissa. | Nominated | member |
| 7. Mr. N. C. Srivastava,
Secretary,
Ministry of Mines & Metals. | „ | „ |
| 8. Dr. Niharranjan Ray,
Director,
Indian Institute of Advanced Studies,
Simla. | „ | „ |
| 9. Shri S. N. Ray, ICS (Retd.),
and now Chairman of the West Bengal
State Electricity Board. | „ | „ |
| 10. Shri P. C. Mukherjee,
Director of Public Instruction,
Government of West Bengal. | Nominated by the Govt. of
West Bengal. | |
| 11. Prof. S. K. Saraswati,
Head of the Department of Archaeo-
logy,
Calcutta University. | Nominated by the
Society. | Asiatic |

APPENDIX II

(vide Para 9 of the Report)

Details of the Meetings of the Board of Trustees held during 2nd and 3rd Plan Periods

Date of the meeting held during the plan periods	I	2
11th April, 1956		15
14th May, 1956		18
11th June, 1956		14
22nd June, 1956		13
9th July, 1956		12
20th July, 1956		11
13th August, 1956		16
10th September, 1956		15
29th September, 1956		7
12th November, 1956		11
10th December, 1956		7
17th January, 1957		12
12th February, 1957		15
18th March, 1957		13
8th April, 1957		13
13th May, 1957		13
10th June, 1957		14
17th June, 1957		15
8th July, 1957		14
12th August, 1957		12
9th September, 1957		14
26th September, 1957		9
14th November, 1957		7
25th November, 1957		14
2nd December, 1957		9

13th December, 1957	11
13th January, 1958	11
10th February, 1958	9
10th March, 1958	12
16th April, 1958	11
12th May, 1958	16
9th June, 1958	10
14th July, 1958	9
11th August, 1958	12
8th September, 1958	10
13th October, 1958	10
8th December, 1958	12
12th January, 1959	11
9th February, 1959	12
9th March, 1959	11
21st March, 1959	9
30th March, 1959	9
13th April, 1959	13
11th May, 1959	13
8th June, 1959	12
17th June, 1959	12
13th July, 1959	12
17th August, 1959	9
14th September, 1959	11
28th September, 1959	3
9th November, 1959	13
14th December, 1959	11
11th January, 1960	8
8th February, 1960	15
14th March, 1960	15
23rd March, 1960	9
11th April, 1960	8
9th May, 1960	11
13th June, 1960	10
11th July, 1960	7
19th July, 1960	11
8th August, 1960	13

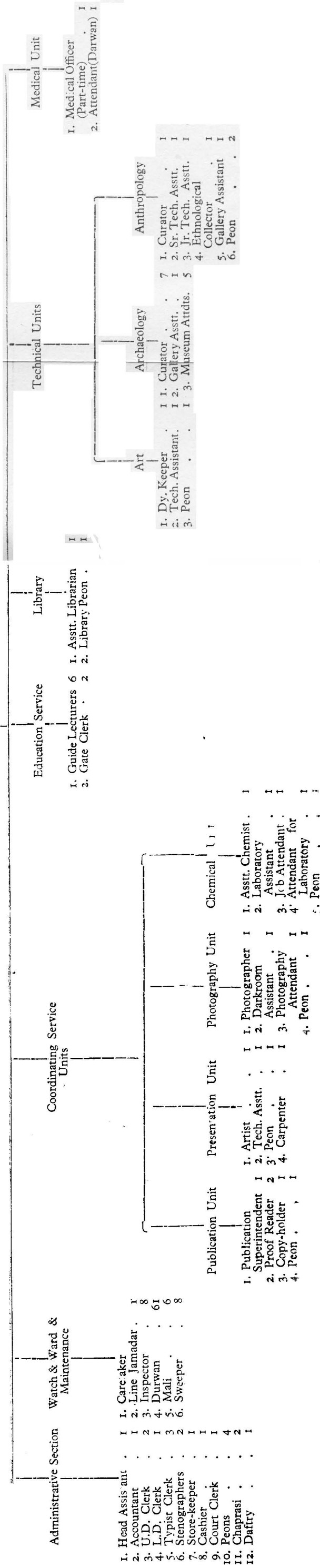
	I	2
22nd August, 1960		12
31st August, 1960		11
12th September, 1960		10
16th November, 1960		12
12th December, 1960		12
22nd January, 1961		8
7th March, 1961		8
27th March, 1961		10
19th July, 1961		6
4th October, 1961		6
28th November, 1961		5
4th April, 1962		9
12th July, 1962		6
29th November, 1962		8
9th March, 1963		5
10th April, 1963		9
10th April, 1963 (Extraordinary meeting of the Board of Trustees).		9
10th August, 1963		6
18th December, 1963		8
24th February, 1964		5
25th March, 1964		9
6th July, 1964		6
19th September, 1964		11
17th December, 1964		10
27th March, 1965		11
29th May, 1965		7
17th August, 1965		9
7th Decembr, 1965		9
9th March, 1966		6
26th March, 1966		6

APPENDIX III

(Vide Para 11 of the Report)

Chart showing the Organisational set-up of the Indian Museum.

BOARD OF TRUSTEES
Indian Museum Directorate
DIRECTOR



APPENDIX IV

(Vide Para 12 of the Report)

The Staff which has been transferred and which has not been transferred to the Indian Museum by different surveys.

Archaeological Survey (Staff originally attached to Archaeological Section, Indian Museum)	Indian Museum (Staff transferred on integration)	Staff to be transferred	Remarks
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)
<i>A. Technical</i>			
1. Superintendent	1	Nil	Superintendent
2. Assistant Curators	3	Curators 7 Gallery Assistant 1	Superintendent 1 Nil
3. Asstt. Numismatist.	1		
4. Gallery Assistant	2		
5. Chemical Assistant	1	Nil	Nil
6. Assistant Librarian	1	Nil	Nil
7. Photographer	1	Nil	Nil } Nil }
8. Photoprinter	1	Nil	
9. Modeller	1	Nil	Modeller
10. Draftsman	1	Nil	Draftsman
11. Marksman	1	Nil	Marksman
12. Carpenter	1	Nil	Carpenter
<i>B—Ministerial</i>			
1. Head Clerk	1	Nil	Head Clerk
2. 2nd Clerk	1	Nil	2nd Clerk

(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)
3. Stenographer . 1	Nil	Stenographer	1
4. Accountant . 1	Nil	Accountant	1
5. Store-Keeper. 1	Nil	Store-Keeper	1
6. L. D. Clerk . 2	Nil	L. D. Clerk	2
<i>Class IV</i>			
Original list is not available in this office record . .	Museum	Attendants	5

APPENDIX V

(Vide para 32 of the Report)

Statement showing details of the amounts sanctioned for some of the New Projects, the target dates of completion and the proposals for staffing them.

Name of the Unit	Amount sanctioned	When to be completed	Proposals for staffing
1	2	3	4
(i) Chemical Unit	Rs. 15,000 (Non-Plan) out of Rs. 5,00,000	31-3-67	One Chemical Asstt. in the scale of Rs. 210 to Rs. 425 is required for the present.
(ii) Children's Gallery	2,20,886 (Plan)	31-3-67	One Curator and one Guide-Lecturer both in the scale of Rs. 210—425 are necessary to run the Gallery and one Museum Attendant in the scale of Rs. 70—1—80—EB—1—85.
(iii) Jewellery Gallery Anthropology.		31-3-67	One Curator and one Museum Attendant in the scale of Rs. 210—425 and Rs. 70—85 respectively.
(iv) Mobile Unit	40,000 (Plan)	31-3-67	One Driver and one Driver-mechanic in the scale of Rs. 110—180. The amount of Rs. 1,266 being the total expenditure for pay and allowances of these two posts for the remaining 3 months of the year is available from out of the sanctioned amount for the unit.

1	2	3	4
(v) Museum Workshop	Rs. 15,000 (Plan)	31-3-67	The following staff are required :—
			(a) Cabinet Maker— one in the scale of Rs. 150—240.
			(b) Mender (Tex- tiles)—one—in the scale of Rs. 150— 240.
			(c) Carpenters—two— in the scale of Rs. 125—155.
			(d) Label-writers two—in the scale of Rs. 110—155.
			The requisite amount of expenditure for 3 months for the above posts <i>viz.</i> , Rs.4,281 is available from out of the sanctioned budget.

APPENDIX VI

(Vide Para 37 of the Report)

(b) Central Government grant under Plan expenditure for cataloguing and Publication of Sanskrit and Arabic Manuscripts

Year	Head No: Sanction No: Letter No. and date	Amount
<i>Sanskrit</i>		Rs.
1962	37—Education and the budget Provision during 1961-62 under Demand No. 81—Scientific Research and Cultural Affairs—B—Education, B-I, Promotion of Art and Culture B-I(4)(6) other grants “Publication of Rare Manuscripts”. (Plan expenditure) Letter No. F. 18-42/61-C.2, dated 29-1-62.	3,500·00
1965	28—Education—and the budget provision under Demand No. 16—Education E—General—E. 3—Grants-in-aid, Contribution etc., E. 3(7)—other grants,—“Publication of Rare Manuscripts.” (Plan expenditure). Letter No. 18-69-9/65—S.U., dated 29-7-65.	3,500·00 <hr style="width: 20%; margin-left: auto; margin-right: 0;"/> 7,000·00
<i>Arabic</i>		
1963	No. 28—Education and the budget Provision during 1962-63 under Demand No. 84 S.R. & C.A.—B—Education—B-I : Promotion of Art and Culture, B-A(4)(6)—other grants “Publication of Rare Manuscripts”. (Plan expenditure). Letter No. F. 18-30/62-C. 2., dated 19-2-1963.	2,500·00

Central Government grant under Plan Expenditure for construction of New Building

Year	Head No: Sanction Letter No. and date	Amount
1960	37—Education and budget provision under Demand No. 79—Scientific Research Cultural Affairs : B.I. Promotion of Education, B1(4)(5) other grants (Plan expenditure) Strengthening of existing Institutions of Higher learning of all-India importance. Letter No. 19-27/59-C. 2, dated 1-12-59.	5,00,000·00

Year	Head No : Sanction Letter No. and date	Amount
1960	37—Education and the budget provision under Demand No. 78-S.R. & C.A. B. 1(4)(6) : other grants—Strengthening of existing Institutions of higher learning of all-India Importance. (Plan). Letter No. 19-18/60-C. 2, dated 22-10-60.	2,00,000·00
1961	Letter No. 19-18/60-C. 2, dated 16-3-61	2,00,000·00
1964	28—Education and the budget provision under Demand No. 9—Education F. General F. 3 Grants-in-aid Contributions etc., F. 3(7)—other grants Strengthening of Existing institutions of higher learning of all-India Importance. (Plan expenditure). Letter No. F. 19-13/63-C. 2, dated 16-10-64	2,00,000·00

APPENDIX VII

(Vide para 44 of the Report)

THE TRUSTEES OF THE VICTORIA MEMORIAL HALL MUSEUM, CALCUTTA

Ex-Officio

1. Dr. S. Radhakrishnan—President of India.
2. Sm. Padmaja Naidu—Governor of West Bengal.
3. Justice Shree D. N. Sinha—Chief Justice, High Court, Calcutta.
4. Shri P. N. Kirpal—Secretary of the Govt. of India, Ministry of Education.
5. Mr. J. V. Jardine Paterson—President of the Bengal Chamber of Commerce and Industry.
6. Dr. P. K. Roy Choudhury—Mayor, Corporation of Calcutta.

Nominees of the Govt. of India

7. Shri A. K. Sarkar, Retd. Chief Justice of India.
8. Shri Frank Anthony, M.P.

*Nominated by the Trustees with the approval of
the Central Govt.*

9. Shri Badridas Goenka—Banker & Industrialist.
10. Shri Birendra Nath Mookerjee—Governing Director, M/s. Martin Burn Ltd.
11. Maharajadhiraja Uday Chand Mahtab Bahadur of Burdwan.
12. Shri S. Gupta—Managing Director, M/s. Martin Burn Ltd.
13. Shri Sachin Chaudhuri, Bar-at-Law—Finance Minister, Govt. of India.
14. Justice Shri Sankar Prasad Mitra—Judge, High Court, Calcutta.
15. Shri Sankardas Banerji, Bar-at-Law—Advocate General, West Bengal.
16. Dr. B. Malik—Vice-Chancellor, University of Calcutta.

17. Shri Sookamal Kanti Ghosh—Journalist.
18. Maharaja Shri Karni Singh of Bikaner.
19. Maharaja Shrimant Fate Singhrao, Gaekwar of Baroda.
20. Maharaja Shri Pratap Chandra Bhanjdeo of Mayurbhanj.
21. Shri M. R. Das—Retd. Director, M/s. Mackinon, Mackenzie & Co. (P) Ltd.
22. Mr. C. I. Turcan—Director, M/s. Andrew Yule & Co., Ltd.
23. Shri M. P. Birla—Industrialist.
24. Shri P. V. Rajamannar—Ex-Chief Justice, High Court, Madras.
25. Maharani Vijayaraje Scindia of Gwalior.

APPENDIX VIII

Summary of Recommendations/Conclusions contained in the Report

S. No.	Reference to para. No. of the Report	Summary of Recommendations/Conclusions
1	2	3
1	8	<p>The Committee note that the Indian Museum Act, 1910 (as amended by Act 45 of 1960) makes no mention about the objectives of the Museum. The Committee hope that an early opportunity would be taken to define the basic objectives of the Indian Museum by a Government Resolution so that the Museum could be developed on proper lines. The Committee also feel that it is time that the Indian Museum is given the formal status of a National Museum and all consequential steps taken in this direction.</p>
2	9	<p>(i) In view of the important role that the Indian Museum has to play for promoting cultural and educational interests of its users, the Committee feel that the Board of Trustees should have a larger representation of educationists, historians, museologists and social scientists. The Committee recommend that the Board should be suitably reconstituted if necessary by amending the Indian Museum Act.</p> <p>(ii) The Committee further suggest that the feasibility of accepting donations from the public for the purpose of enriching the collections of the Museum may be explored. The responsibility also lies on the non-official members of the Board to attract private monetary and/or art donations from philanthropists, art connoisseurs and private donors.</p>
3	10	<p>Having realised that the Committees set up by the Board of Trustees especially the Com-</p>

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mittee of Management and Finance Committee have very important functions to perform, the Estimates Committee suggest that the constitution of these two Committees should be more broad-based so as to include representatives from the remaining Departments of the Museum in the Committee of Management and the Director of the Museum in the Finance Committee.

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The Committee feel that from the point of view of efficient administration and also for the proper development of the Indian Museum, all the departments, units and galleries should be under the same administration. The Government also seem to have realised this when they decided to transfer Art, Archaeology and Anthropology Galleries to the Museum but they retained the Geological, Zoological and Botanical Galleries under the respective Surveys. The Committee feel that this piece-meal integration and dual control has hampered the proper development of the Indian Museum resulting in lack of coordination. The Committee would urge that early steps be taken to remedy the situation.

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The Committee do not feel satisfied with the explanation given by the Ministry that the relevant staff could not be transferred as they were doing other work also in addition to looking to the galleries transferred. The Committee feel that the Government should have transferred a portion of the staff when a big load of their work was transferred to the Indian Museum. They also feel that employment of a large number of staff on daily wage basis is more expensive and not very conducive to the efficient working of the Museum. In order to see that the Museum may initiate development programmes on a planned basis, the Committee suggest that after thoroughly examining the staff requirements of the Museum, Government should take immediate steps to meet the demands of the Museum either by transferring some staff from the Surveys or by recruiting new staff.

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The Committee attach great importance to the development of the Anthropological Gallery both on its ethnological and physical sides. They are unhappy to observe that in the Anthropological

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Galleries the ethnological exhibits predominate and that no effective steps have been taken by the Government for the transference of the original exhibits from the Anthropological Survey to the Indian Museum. The Committee think that the Gallery as it is in the Indian Museum has no justification of being called Anthropological. The Committee are also unhappy that the Indian Museum does not have any pre-historic human fossils even though it is the oldest Museum in the country. The Committee would urge that efforts should be made to develop the physical anthropology unit in the Indian Museum and for that endeavour should also be made to acquire the original fossils of pre-historic human beings and other relevant objects or at least their replicas for display in the Indian Museum.

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(i) The Committee think that a Museum like the Indian Museum cannot serve its purpose without an adequate number of properly trained Guide Lecturers. The Committee suggest that the needs of the Indian Museum, so far as Guide Lecturers are concerned, may be gone into by the Ministry of Education at an early date and, necessary number of properly trained Guide Lecturers be provided.

(ii) As the Museum has to cater to all types of visitors with a preponderance of semi-literate or illiterate visitors, the Committee suggest that there should be a re-orientation in the outlook of the Guide Lecturers so that they could educate even the uninformed about the richness of country's hoary past as enshrined in the galleries of the Museum. It should be the responsibility of the Guide Lecturers to explain things to the uneducated in a language that can be understood by a layman. As for the literate or educated visitors, the guidance should be on a higher plane so that they could react aesthetically and intelligently upon the subjects that they see.

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The Committee cannot over-emphasise the importance of proper maintenance of the Museum building which is more than one hundred and fifty years old. The building should be adequately protected against leakage and dampness so that the costly materials housed in the building are

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not affected. The Committee suggest that the Central Public Works Department may carry out a technical Survey about the condition of the Museum building so that a phased programme for repairs and renovation could be drawn up in the light of the findings. The Committee hope that Government will ensure that the essential and inescapable repairs works are not held up due to lack of funds, as this may lead to damage of the valuable exhibits in the Museum.

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The Committee realise the difficulties experienced by the Indian Museum due to lack of adequate accommodation. The Committee feel that some other suitable accommodation should have been requisitioned by the Civil Defence Organisation. The Committee would urge that the portion of the building occupied by the Civil Defence Organisation should be released and handed over to the Museum for its own use as early as possible.

The Committee would also urge the vaction of the portions of the building which are occupied by different Surveys at an early date. Even this may not be adequate for the proper arrangements and display of the exhibits. So the Committee suggest that the Government may make a proper study of the question of accommodation for the Museum.

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The Committee need hardly stress the desirability of conducting stock-taking of the antiquities regularly so as to avoid loss or pilferage of rare exhibits. They also feel that security arrangements should be tightened to avoid thefts etc.

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The Committee regret to note that no acquisitions were made by the Indian Museum during the year 1961-62. The Committee need hardly emphasise that the acquisition of art objects is one of the major functions of a Museum and unless this function is performed properly and adequately, the development of the Museum is likely to be retarded. The Committee hope that the Indian Museum will pay due attention in this direction in future. The Committee also suggest that the Indian Museum should strive to establish exchange relations with other museums in the country as well as abroad.

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12	19	<p>The Committee are distressed to note that as many as 10 of the rare and invaluable manuscripts in the Indian Museum have been badly damaged and are beyond recovery due to lack of proper conservation. The Committee suggest that a proper enquiry should be made to fix the responsibility for this damage and loss. The Committee also note that 44 manuscripts need urgent attention for conservation in addition to 41 manuscripts which have also to be conserved. They feel that Government have failed to make necessary provision for the preservation of rare and valuable manuscripts. They need hardly stress that immediate attention should be paid for proper conservation of all these manuscripts so that they are not lost to posterity for ever.</p> <p>The Committee suggest that arrangements may be made to obtain from indigenous sources useful preservation material like cellulose acetate foil, tissue paper, etc.</p> <p>They also suggest that Government may provide adequate facilities to the Indian Museum for microfilming of rare manuscripts.</p>
13	21	<p>(i) The Committee are glad to note the steps taken by the Indian Museum for the improvement of labelling and method of display. The Committee need hardly stress that continuous efforts should be made to effect further improvements in this direction. In the matter of presentation, however, the Committee would like to suggest the use of simple but effective media of display, and use of indigenous and less costly materials.</p> <p>(ii) The Committee also suggest that the working of the Presentation Unit of the Indian Museum <i>vis-a-vis</i> its staff strength should be gone into with a view to see whether the staff strength is adequate to handle the work smoothly and efficiently.</p>
14	22	<p>In view of the fact that the Indian Museum is the oldest Museum in the country with an extensive collection of objects like bronzes, manuscripts, coins, textiles, paintings, etc. which require preservation and chemical treatment, the Committee feel that the scheme of setting up a</p>

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full-fledged Chemical Section in the Museum should have been processed with a sense of urgency. The Committee note that although the Chemical Unit has started functioning since May, 1966, it is still poorly equipped in regard to both equipments and staff. The Committee need hardly stress that the Conservation Laboratory of the Indian Museum should be fully equipped and fully staffed as early as possible so that it can look after the varied and enormous collections of the Museum as also of the Victoria Memorial Hall Museum properly. The Committee also suggest that efforts should be made to get aid from UNESCO or any other international agency in this regard.

They further suggest that the Conservation Laboratory of the Indian Museum should also render assistance to the other important museums in Calcutta, e.g. Victoria Memorial Hall Museum, Asiatic Society, Ashutosh Museum, etc.

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The Committee need hardly stress that "Every Museum must develop an appropriate programme for education of the community it serves". They are glad to note the educational programmes started by the Indian Museum in this regard. They, however, feel that educational programmes should be further intensified and strengthened. The Committee think there is considerable scope for holding featured, exhibitions, symposia and seminars in collaboration with the universities and museums in the eastern region.

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The Committee are glad to note that there is liaison with the Calcutta University and with other educational institutions at Calcutta in regard to the facilities for research and education in the Indian Museum. They, however, feel that it would be desirable to draw a co-ordinated programme for research in consultation with the Victoria Memorial Hall Museum and the Ashutosh Museum of the Calcutta University. Efforts should continue to be made to establish regular contacts with other universities situated in the Eastern Zone.

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The Committee feel that the Modelling Department of the Indian Museum can go a long way in establishing better contacts between the Indian

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Museum on the one hand and colleges and schools on the other, as many educational institutions would like to have these casts and moulds which have great educative value. Furthermore, this Department can help in augmenting the revenues of the Indian Museum by sale of plaster casts, wax-moulds, etc. The Committee therefore suggest that the Ministry of Education may review the needs for staff *vis-a-vis* the workload of the Department.

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The Committee commend the steps taken to publicise the activities of the Indian Museum through press releases, radio broadcasts, documentaries, radio talks, etc. They also note that Indian Museum has taken part in exhibitions of cultural interest in India and abroad. The Committee need hardly point out that it is mainly through the publications like news-letters, bulletins, monographs, bibliographies, inexpensive prints, etc. that the Museum could be better known to a larger public not only within the country but also outside its limits. The Committee would urge that a phased programme of bringing out essential publications by Indian Museum as well as other Central Government Museums should be drawn up and strictly adhered to.

In view of the extensive publications and publicity activities undertaken by the Museum, the Committee suggest that the question of strengthening the Publicity Publication Unit in the Indian Museum may be considered. The Committee also recommend that concerted efforts should be made to promote the sales of the publications brought out by the Indian Museum in India as well as abroad. The Committee would also like to stress that the Publication Unit should, as far as possible, be self-supporting and, if necessary, special grants should also be made to make it purposeful.

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The Committee recommend that adequate facilities should be developed in the Library of the Indian Museum to meet the growing needs of students and research workers. They feel that the Library should be properly staffed and should be in the charge of a trained Librarian.

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The Committee also suggest that a phased programme for the development of the Library may be drawn up and implemented.

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The Committee feel that proper day to day record of the number of visitors to the Indian Museum should be kept by the Museum. They also feel that there should be a uniform practice for admission of visitors to all the Central Government Museum. In this connection the Committee note that the Victoria Memorial Hall Museum charges an admission fee of 25 paise for adults and 12 paise for children below the age of 7 years on all working days except Friday when double fee is charged. The Committee suggest that the feasibility of introducing a similar scale of admission fee in the Indian Museum and all other museums may be considered by Government.

The Committee also desire that a complaint or suggestion book should be kept at the Museum where the visitors could register their views and impressions about the Museum.

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The Committee find that there is a wide gap between the budgetary proposals submitted by the Indian Museum and the amounts sanctioned by the Central Government during the last so many years. Although the Committee realise that the amounts have to be sanctioned by the Central Government subject to the over-all financial resources, they feel that every care should be taken by Government to see that the essential items of work are not held up due to paucity of funds. The Committee would like to stress that the Indian Museum, apart from being the oldest, is the biggest multipurpose museum in the country with vast and varied collection of materials, rare manuscripts and records. The Committee feel that this Museum deserves to be properly developed so that it can take its rightful place as the National Museum for the Eastern Zone. In the opinion of the Committee there should not be much disparities in financial aid from the Central Government between this Museum and the National Museum at New Delhi.

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The Committee realise that the question of providing funds in the Fourth Five Year Plan so far

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as the Indian Museum is concerned, has to be considered in a wider perspective, i.e. provision of funds for the development of other Museums and the over-all finances available. However, the Committee are unhappy to note that adequate attention has not been paid towards the development of those Museums in the country which can claim the status of National Museums in their respective regions. The Committee feel that for allocating funds to the various Museums, there should be a system of priorities and funds should be provided to those sections first which can be made self-supporting and can augment the revenues of the Museums. In the opinion of the Committee the Modelling, Photography and the Publication Units could be suitably developed so that they could bring in revenues by the sale of their products. Next in order of priority comes the Chemical Unit which is so essential for conservation and preservation of invaluable and rare objects.

The Committee suggest that the question of provision of funds for the developmental works of the Museums should be gone into in all its aspects by Government in consultation with the Planning Commission and an order of priorities laid down for the development programmes to be undertaken by the Museums in future.

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The Committee are distressed to note that during the last five years, the Indian Museum has not incurred any expenditure under the heads Acquisition, Preservation, Publications and Research and even the expenditure incurred on Presentation during 1965-66 has been rather insignificant. The Committee are particularly unhappy that the bulk of the expenditure is being incurred on Administration. The Committee cannot too strongly emphasise the need for the balanced development of the Museum under different heads like Acquisition, Preservation, Presentation, etc.

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(i) The Committee are unhappy that a society like the Asiatic Society, which has been a pioneer institution in the field of scientific and humanistic studies in this country for more than a century and half and has fostered the first mus-

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um in India, has not received sufficient and legitimate encouragement from the Government.

In view of the fact that the Society is running at a deficit and has no sources of income other than the income from the rent that it receives, the Committee feel that the Government should render adequate financial assistance to it by way of maintenance grant. The very fact that the Society has been compelled to let out a portion of its building on rent goes to show that it stands in dire need of financial assistance. The Ministry of Education which has the primary responsibility for fostering the growth of the museums and of learned societies in this country should take more active interest in fostering the activities of the Society.

(ii) The Committee regret to learn that the Union Government have withdrawn its representative on the Council of the Society to save Rs. 6000 per annum to be spent for sending an official from Delhi. The Committee feel that the Government could have nominated as their representative, some Central Government Officer posted at Calcutta or even some eminent non-official of Calcutta. The Committee would like to stress that Government should take more active interest in this matter.

(iii) The Committee do not find any justification for giving a building grant of Rs. 11 lakhs to the Society if the Government have not appreciated the utility of this body and its proper functioning. The Committee think that the Government, before making that building grant, should have ensured the proper functioning of the Society and of proper utilisation of its collections.

(iv) The Committee further feel that it is not quite proper for the Government to ask a learned Society like the Asiatic Society to maintain itself or to allow its valuable and rare collections to go waste and deteriorate. The Committee would like to impress that the collections in the Society are the precious property of the nation and the Government should have taken active interest in the maintenance and proper utilisation of the collected materials.

(v) The Committee are unhappy about the low pay scales of the staff and recommend that the Government should look into the matter and will help the Asiatic Society to take effective steps to improve the pay-scales and service conditions of all categories of staff employed therein.

(vi) The Committee attach great importance to the preservation of valuable manuscripts which are kept in Asiatic Society. Arrangements should therefore be made to utilise the services of the UNESCO Unit, Calcutta, for micro-filming and preservation of the documents that are in the custody of the Society. The Conservation work of the Society also requires closer attention; and arrangements may be made, in consultation with the Indian Museum, Calcutta and the Asiatic Society, for renovating such of the manuscripts as stand in need of restoration. There should be close collaboration between the Indian Museum, Calcutta and the Asiatic Society on the technical, professional and academic level. The Committee hope that the Asiatic Society on its part will take energetic steps to prepare a comprehensive catalogue of all the manuscripts and other articles which it has in its possession.

(vii) The Committee are not happy about the present organisational and administrative set-up of the Society and would suggest that an early review may be made in this direction. They would also urge that in view of its importance as a learned Society, the Government should have a more direct and active role to play in its organisation and administration.

The Committee note that the Preamble to the Victoria Memorial Act, 1903 (as amended by Act 58 of 1960) makes no mention about the objectives of the Museum. The general public associates, the Museum with the name of Queen Victoria whose memory it perpetuates but it has no vivid idea about the collections or the functions of the Museum. The Committee hope that an early opportunity would be taken to define its basic objectives by a Government Resolution so that the Museum may be developed as a Modern Historical Museum of the country. The Committee

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also suggest that the activities of the Museum should be widely publicised.

- 26 43 The Committee regret that even after 19 years of independence the Victoria Memorial Hall Museum is still continuing to present only one side of the shield, namely, the British side and almost nothing substantial has been done to exhibit the other side, i.e. the Indian side. In cultural, religious, political, journalistic and literary fields, eminent Indians have played a significant role from the days of the East India Company. The Committee feel that the Government should immediately take steps to make the Victoria Memorial Hall Museum a well-balanced institution containing exhibits relating to modern Indian history. In this connection, the Committee also suggest that the Victoria Memorial Hall Museum should endeavour to collect the manuscripts and other exhibits connected with the political and cultural renaissance movement with particular reference to the regions in the Eastern Zone. The Agrarian movement against the Indigo planters of Bengal and Bihar, which might be called a turning point in the political movement in India, should have received some attention.
- 27 44 The Committee regret that even after 19 years of independence no steps have been taken to reorganise the Board of Trustees, which, as at present constituted, is not likely to inspire much confidence and give a lead in the all-round development of the Museum. The Committee hope that immediate steps will be taken to reorganise the Board of Trustees so as to make it a suitable organ for running a learned body in which the representatives of Museum Association of India, Indian Museum, Calcutta, the Ashutosh Museum of Calcutta University, the Central and the State Governments interested (i.e., of the Eastern Zone) may be included. If necessary, the relevant Act may be suitably amended to meet this purpose.
- 28 45 The Committee are unhappy to note that the Victoria Memorial Hall Museum which is expected to be developed as a Museum of Modern History has not during the recent years acquired any exhibit historical value so as to give the collections a diversity and richness that the
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Museum deserves. They also feel that the amount placed at the disposal of the Museum for the acquisition of exhibits is rather meagre. The Committee hope that Government would see to it that the development of the Museum is not retarded either due to lack of funds or initiative and eagerness to enrich the collections—in different directions namely, historical, social, political and cultural.

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The Committee regret to note that no criteria have been laid down in regard to the selection of portraits of national leaders for display in the Gallery of the Victoria Memorial Hall Museum. The Committee are also distressed that the Central Government has not deemed it necessary to give any directives to the authorities of the Victoria Memorial Hall Museum in regard to the selection of portraits of India's national leaders. The Committee would suggest that Government may immediately constitute a Selection Committee consisting of eminent historians, public men (including Members of Parliament), representatives of the Central and State Governments, with a view to draw up a list of national leaders whose portraits could find a place in the Gallery of the Victoria Memorial Hall Museum. The Selection Committee may also select the artists who should execute the work.

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The Committee cannot over-emphasise the necessity of preparing standardised Stock Register so that stock taking could be done methodically to avoid possible pilferage or loss of exhibits. They would urge that adequate assistance be provided to the Museum in this regard.

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(i) The Committee desire that immediate steps should be taken to effect improvements in the method of display in the Victoria Memorial Hall Museum and for this purpose the Government/Museum may seek the advice of some of the eminent museologists in the country. The Committee also feel that old labels on the exhibits should be replaced by printed labels containing additional information as early as possible.

(ii) The Committee would suggest that Government may explore the feasibility of keeping in

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the Victoria Memorial Hall Museum or any other suitable place the statues of the British and other foreign dignitaries which have been removed from public places all over the country.

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While the Committee realise that for day-to-day conservation work there is a need for having a small conservation cell in the Victoria Memorial Hall Museum, they feel that for major conservation works, the Museum should utilise the facilities available at the Indian Museum, Calcutta. In fact, the Conservation Department of the Indian Museum should be able to render expert advice to the conservation staff of the Victoria Memorial Hall Museum and also train them in conservation techniques.

The Committee are unhappy to learn that valuable manuscripts of the Victoria Memorial Hall Museum are fading due to lack of proper conservation. The Committee would urge that immediate steps should be taken to renovate such manuscripts so that they may not be permanently lost to the Museum. The Committee would like to stress that though photostat copies are necessary, these cannot be expected to substitute to originals and as such, efforts should continue to be made for conservation of the original manuscripts.

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The Committee commend the educational programmes undertaken by the Victoria Memorial Hall Museum. They hope that these programmes will be further intensified and strengthened.

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The Committee feel that the Victoria Memorial Hall Museum with its varied collections relating to the British period of Indian history is capable of being and should be developed for purposes of research in modern Indian history. The Committee suggest that a comprehensive programme for research may be drawn up in conjunction with the University of Calcutta and other universities. In order to provide facilities for research, the Victoria Memorial Hall Museum Library should be enlarged so as to include comprehensive collections on modern Indian history. The Museum should have a qualified Librarian to cater to the needs of the research scholars. More reading space should be provided for the research

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scholars visiting the Museum for purposes of study.

The Committee note that the Victoria Memorial Hall Museum has not organised any exhibition since 1957. Even the exhibition that was held in that year was one sided inasmuch as only the British side of the 1875 uprising was shown. The Committee suggest that the Victoria Memorial Hall Museum should be helped to acquire and exhibit some pictures, books, documents etc. showing the Indian side of the 1857 rising. The Committee would further urge that the Government should provide adequate facilities to the Victoria Memorial Hall Museum for organising exhibitions on modern and contemporary history at regular intervals.

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The Committee are unhappy to note that the Victoria Memorial Hall Museum has not brought out any publications for many years. The Committee cannot over-emphasise the importance of bringing out an illustrated guide book and a catalogue for the use of the visitors as well as research scholars. The Committee hope that Government would see to it that these publications are brought out without delay.

The Committee cannot appreciate the argument of the Victoria Memorial Hall Museum authorities that they could not publish the picture post cards for want of funds; rather the Committee feel that these picture post cards could have brought in some additional revenue. The Committee suggest that Victoria Memorial Hall Museum should bring out multi-coloured picture post cards which have great attraction for the tourists.

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The Committee note with regret that during these five years, the number of visitors has remained more or less stationary in spite of large expansion of education and increase in number of literate people. The Committee can come to only one conclusion that the authorities have not made any serious effort to attract visitors and to popularise the Museum.

The Committee suggest that concerted drive should be made to publicise the activities and

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importance of the Victoria Memorial Hall Museum so as to attract more visitors to this important historical Museum. The Committee also suggest that a complaint or suggestion book should be kept at the Museum where the visitors could register their views and impressions about the Museum. The Committee feel that special lectures and symposia by eminent persons organised in the Museum may be utilised for popularising the Museum and attracting more visitors.

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The Committee are unhappy to note that the expenditure being incurred by the Victoria Memorial Hall Museum on acquisition and preservation of art objects, purchase of books and equipment etc. is negligible as compared to the expenditure being incurred on staff. They are all the more unhappy to note that nothing has been provided for research work and more amount is spent for the maintenance of the garden than the Museum proper. The Committee feel that expenditure on the maintenance of the garden should not be a charge on the Museum but it should be met out of a separate grant to be given to the Museum for the purpose. It should, however, be ensured that the garden is not neglected and is properly maintained. The Committee would like the Ministry of Education to go carefully into the budget of the Museum so as to ensure that the amounts are spent properly and in keeping with the needs of the Museum before sanctioning the grants.

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The Committee are constrained to note that a large amount, which was intended for the purchase of objects of interest or art or for the adornment or completion of the Victoria Memorial Hall Museum, has been allowed to accumulate in the Endowment Fund now held with the State Bank of India, London. They are unhappy that no steps have been taken by the Government to have the funds transferred to India for being spent for the development of the Museum. The Committee would stress the need for the early transfer of the funds from London so that they could be utilised for the betterment of the Museum.

APPENDIX IX

Vide Introduction

Analysis of Recommendations/Conclusions contained in the Report

I. CLASSIFICATION OF RECOMMENDATIONS

A. Recommendations for improving the Organisation and Working :

Serial Nos. 1, 2(i), 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 18, 19, 20, 21, 23, 24, 25, 26, 27, 28, 29, 30, 31, 32, 33, 34, 35, 36 and 37.

B. Recommendations for effecting economy :

Serial Nos. 2 (ii), 17, 18, 22 and 38.

II. ANALYSIS OF THE RECOMMENDATIONS DIRECTED TOWARDS ECONOMY

S. No.	S. No. as per summary of recommendations (Appendix VIII)	Particulars
1	2	3
1	2(ii)	The feasibility of accepting donations from the public for the purpose of enriching the collections of the Museum may be explored. The responsibility also lies on the non-official members of the Board to attract private monetary and/or art donations from philanthropists, art connoisseurs and private donors.
2	17	Modelling Department of the Indian Museum can help in augmenting the revenues of the Museum by sale of plaster casts, wax, moulds, etc. The needs for staff of this Department <i>vis-a-vis</i> the work load of the Department may be reviewed.
3	18	Concerted efforts should be made to promote the sales of the publications brought out by the Indian Museum in India as well as abroad. The Publication Unit should, as far as possible, be self-supporting.

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4	22	For allocating funds to the various Museums, there should be a system of priorities and funds should be provided to those sections first which can be made self-supporting and can augment the revenues of the Museums. Modelling, Photography and the Publication Units could be suitably developed so that they could bring in revenues by the sale of their products.
5	38	Early steps may be taken to transfer the funds of the Victoria Memorial Hall Museum which are lying in London to India so that they could be utilised for the betterment of the Museum.
