Theft of Idol at Garuda Temple

4852-B. SHRI CHINTAMANI JENA: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESO-URCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Lord Garuda Idol which was fixed at a Garuda Temple Pillar was found missing;
- (b) if so, whether any arrest has been made in this respect;
- (c) whether Government are aware that the idols from our temple are being stolen and exported to other countries;
- (d) if so, the number of such theft reported to the Government and the number of persons arrested; and
- (e) steps taken for the safeguard of the idols?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF EDUCATION AND CULTURE (SMT. SUSHILA ROHATGI): (a) According to available information, an idol of Garuda has been stolen from Gundicha Mandir, Puri which is not a centrally protected monument

- (b) to (d) The information is being collected.
- (e) Several measures have been taken for the safeguard of the idols and to prevent thefts in centrally protected monuments as indicated in the statement attached.

'Statement

- 1. Armed Guards have been posted in some of the centrally protected monuments and museums administered by the Archaeological Survey of India, in addition to strengthening of watch and ward arrangements in other monuments/sites.
- Construction of sculpture-sheds at important sites to house loose and uncared for sculptures, their documentation and establishment of archaeological site museums.

- 3. Promulgation of the Antiquities and Art Treasures Act, 1972 to regulate the export trade in antiquities and art treasures, to provide for the prevention of smuggling and fraudulent dealing in antiquities; to provide for the compulsory acquisition of antiquities and art treasures for preservation at public places.
- 4. Creation of Investigating Unit (Antiques) in the Central Bureau of Investigation to investigate cases concerning theft of antiquities.
- 5. Maintenance of a computerised data bank of the cases of theft and recoveries of certain important cultural properties (sculptures, idols and paintings) containing information about crimes, criminals and cultural property in the Central Bureau of Investigation.
- 6. Coordination between the Central Bureau of Investigation, the Archaeological Survey of India, State Police, Customs and Checkposts for prompt reporting of crimes, criminals, thefts concerning cultural property and smuggling of objects.
- 7. Assistance of Interpol is also sought where necessary for investigation of such cases.

MEMBER SWORN

SHRI NARENDRA BUDANIYA (Churu)

RULING RE: LAYING ON THE TABLE REPORTS BY PRIVATE MEMBERS

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: On 4th December, 1985, I had given my ruling withholding permission asked for by Prof. Madhu Dandavate to day on the Table of the House the Report of the Jyotirmoy Bosu Committee with regard to the High Rate of Mortality at the Central Sheep and