

### Historical Monuments in Jammu and Kashmir

\*477. SHRI P. NAMGYAL: Will the Minister of EDUCATION AND SOCIAL WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that hundred year old monuments of great historical value are languishing in neglect at (i) village, Bupnergarrh, Dir Garh and Mahore Garh of Tehsil Samba of Jammu District; (ii) temple of village Beli Tehsil and District Udhampur; (iii) temple of Jullundra Devi in Village Kotli Pain, Tehsil Chenani of District Udhampur; and

(b) whether Government propose to get these monuments inspected and preserved through the Archaeological Survey of India?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EDUCATION AND SOCIAL WELFARE (SHRIMATI SHEILA KAUL): (a) and (b). According to the information available with Government these monuments should be in charge of the State Government and they should take care of these monuments unless it is established that some of these monuments are of national importance—Government is awaiting the report from the local officers.

SHRI P. NAMGYAL: Sir what are criteria fixed for declaring a particular monument as of national importance? You have said that Government is awaiting the report from the local officers. May I know whether those officers are of Central Government or of State Government?

SHRIMATI SHEILA KAUL: The ancient and historical monuments which are more than 100 years old and of outstanding archaeological, historical and architectural merit are alone considered for declaration as of national importance under the Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Sites and Remains Act and the Superintendent, Archaeology, North Eastern Circle, has been deputed to

go into the work and when we get his report we will be able to do something about it.

SHRI P. NAMGYAL: May I know Whether the Government is aware of the fact that Kashmir Government is destroying many of the ancient monuments particularly of the Dogra period which are more than 100 years old like the Chashma Shahi and Nishet Bagh in Srinagar and also the belief that the State Assembly building which was former palace of the Dogra King (Raja) and some other buildings according to some, have also been set on fire by the agents of the Kashmir Government? What steps are Government of India taking to protect these and similar monuments?

SHRIMATI SHEILA KAUL: We are not aware of what has been said here.

DR. KARAN SINGH: Mr. Speaker, Sir, my friend, Mr. Namgyal, has drawn attention to the wanton destruction that is taking place of the archaeological heritage in Jammu and Kashmir. Like the other States of India, Jammu and Kashmir is very rich in archaeology—in Ladakh, in the Valley and in Jammu But, over the last four or five years, a number of important historical landmarks have been deliberately destroyed. In the Nishat Garden, you will remember, there was the canopy which was built in Shahjahan's times and it seems that the present Mughals do not like it. Therefore, one day they said, 'You remove the canopy'. That is an outrage. Similarly, the Sher-Garhi palace—which was a monument in itself, I am not saying it because it was my family property, it was not, it had already been given to the State before independence, it was a monument, the apjermache ceilings of that Place were unique,—was burnt down. There is a deliberate policy, we feel, of destroying these ancient monuments, and the Minister says that she is not aware of this. May I respectfully enquire

from the Minister, from the Government, whether they are aware that the Prime Minister knows about this problem, and what steps are Government of India going to take to see that whatever is left in Jammu & Kashmir State is also not destroyed?

**SHRIMATI SHEILA KAUL:** All these monuments are supposed to be under the State...

**DR. KARAN SINGH:** That is not true, Madam.

**THE MINISTER OF EDUCATION AND SOCIAL WELFARE (SHRI S. B. CHAVAN):** In the light of the question put by Dr. Karan Singh, Government would like to have the information. As far as our information is concerned, neither the Superintendent of Archaeology has reported this matter to us, nor has the Jammu & Kashmir Government reported anything. (Interruptions) Certainly we cannot possibly say whether the Jammu & Kashmir Government was responsible for destruction of any property, of this ancient monument, unless we have authentic reports about it. Certainly we shall have the information; we would like to inquire into the entire thing.

**DR. KARAN SINGH:** Would you send the Director-General of Archaeology specially to Jammu & Kashmir to survey the position and report to you?

**SHRI S. B. CHAVAN:** First of all, we should get a report. We have not received a complaint either. If we get a report and if we find that there is a *prima facie* case, certainly the Director-General can be sent.

#### District affected by drought

\*478. **SHRI R. K. MHALGI:** Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to lay a statement showing the names of districts in Various States affected by drought in the last one year?

**THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND RURAL RECONSTRUCTION (SHRI BALESHWAR RAM):** A statement showing the names of districts in various States affected by drought during the year 1980-81 is laid on the Table of the House.

#### Statement

*The names of districts in various states affected by drought during the year 1980-81 (based on the memorandum received from the state Government).*

Name of State	Pre-Monsoon	Post-Monsoon
1. Andhra Pradesh	1. Srikakulam	
	2. Vizianagaram	
	3. Visakhapatnam	
	4. East Godavari	
	5. West Godavari	
	6. Krishna	
	7. Guntur	