

(a) whether the priceless bronze idol of 'Vishnu' stolen from the Bangiya Sahitya Parishad was sold for Rs. 3.75 lakhs to the Boston Museum of Fine Arts;

(b) if so, what steps Government have taken to get back the 'Vishnu' idol; and

(c) how many art pieces were stolen from the National Museum from 1971 to June, 1974?

THE MINISTER OF EDUCATION, SOCIAL WELFARE AND CULTURE (PROF. S. NURUL HASAN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The bronze image has been handed over to the Indian Ambassador in U.S.A. by the Curator, Boston Museum.

(c) No art piece was stolen from the National Museum, New Delhi in 1971, 1972. However, forty one silver coins were stolen in 1973, of which forty were recovered. No theft has taken place in 1974.

Final Levy Prices of Sugar

*402. SHRI M. RAM GOPAL REDDY: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government of India fixes a provisional levy price for sugar on the basis of estimates at the beginning of cane crushing season and final levy price later every year; and

(b) if so, whether final levy prices have been fixed for the current year 1973-74?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI B. P. MAURYA): (a) and (b). The Government generally fixes the prices of levy sugar in the beginning of a season on the basis of the estimated figures of recovery from sugarcane

and duration of crushing of the sugar factories. After close of the crushing period, prices are revised, if necessary, in the light of the actual working results etc. The prices for 1973-74 season's production are under review accordingly.

Coastal Highway from Kandla Port to Bhavnagar

*403. SHRI VEKARIA:
SHRI D. P. JADEJA:

Will the Minister of SHIPPING AND TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) the latest position of constructing coastal highway from Kandla Port to Bhavnagar; and

(b) when the work is likely to be completed?

THE MINISTER OF SHIPPING AND TRANSPORT (SHRI KAMLA-PATI TRIPATHI): (a) and (b). The portion of the coastal road from Kandla Port to Bhavnagar forms a part of the coastal highway in Gujarat State which is 1752 Kms long and runs from Lakhpat in Kutch to Umergoan in South Gujarat and is estimated to cost about Rs. 25 crores. It is a State road and the Government of Gujarat is primarily concerned with its development. However, in order to assist the State Government in developing this road in meeting other needs of the area, Government of India have approved a loan assistance of Rs. 1.43 crores to the State Government to meet the cost of missing links and bridges in Porbander-Okha and Bhavnagar-Baroda sections.

The portion from Kandla port to Bhavnagar of the coastal highway is about 848 Kms. long out of which 804 Kms. has B.T. surface. Work on 29 Kms. is in progress and the work on 15 Kms. is yet to be started. Also there are about 54 bridges out of which 9 have been completed, 14 are in progress, work on 31 bridges is yet to be started; out of these budget pro-