

taking Workers' Union has urged Government to order a probe by the Central Bureau of Investigation for issuing permits to private bus operators at the time of the General Elections to Lok Sabha ; and

(b) if so, the action taken thereon ?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND SHIPPING AND TRANSPORT (SHRI RAJ BAHADUR): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

Central Assistance to Rajasthan for developing Tourist Facilities

*293. **SHRI BISHWANATH JHUNJHUNWALA:** Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) what has been the Central assistance given to the State of Rajasthan for developing tourist facilities during the last three years, year-wise ;

(b) how much of this assistance has been earmarked for the development of places of tourist interest and tourist bungalows in Chittor ; and

(c) whether there has been any increase in the number of foreign tourists to Chittor during the last three years ?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION (DR. KARAN SINGH): (a) An expenditure of Rs. 1.82 lakhs and Rs. 5,000 was incurred in 1968-69 and 1969-70 respectively and a sum of Rs. 2.50 lakhs was sanctioned in 1970-71 on tourist schemes in Rajasthan.

(b) Nil.

(c) Tourist statistics are maintained on an all-India basis and not a State or place-wise basis. In the sample survey carried out in 1968-69, the number of foreign tourists visiting Udaipur, the tourist centre nearest to Chittor, was 1.8% of the total foreign tourist arrivals.

Seizure of Smuggled Goods

*294. **SHRI SHASHI BHUSHAN:** Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) the item-wise value of diamonds, gold and silver seized in various parts of the country during the last six months ;

(b) the number of persons arrested in this connection ;

(c) the steps taken against the offenders ; and

(d) the specific measures adopted by Government to check the rising trend of smuggling of these items ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI K. R. GANESH): (a) Diamonds valued Rs. 32 lakhs (approx.) at Indian market rate, gold valued Rs. 148 lakhs (approx.) at the international rate and Rs. 333 lakhs (approx.) at Indian market rate and silver valued Rs. 107 lakhs (approx.) at the Indian market rate were seized by the Customs and Central Excise authorities during the period from 1-11-70 to 30-4-71.

(b) and (c). 168 persons were arrested in this connection. Apart from the adjudication proceedings initiated under the Customs Act for confiscation of the smuggled goods and imposition of penalties on the offenders, in cases where sufficient evidence is available for successful prosecution, the offenders are prosecuted in a court of law.

(d) The following measures have been taken to prevent smuggling : systematic collection and follow-up of information, keeping a watchful eye on the suspected smugglers, rummaging of suspected vessels or aircraft and patrolling of vulnerable sectors along the coast and the land frontiers. Some senior officers of the rank of Collectors of Customs, Additional Collectors of Customs and Assistant Collectors of Customs have been posted in vulnerable areas to look after anti-smuggling work exclusively. Customs Act, 1962 has been amended making additional provisions to take special measures for the purpose of checking illegal import and export of certain commodities and

facilitating their detention. The position is also reviewed periodically in the light of the information collected to initiate suitable action.

Reappraisal of working of Untouchability Offences Act

*295. SHRI B. K. DASCHOU DHURY : Will the Minister of EDUCATION AND SOCIAL WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government propose to undertake reappraisal of the working of the Untouchability Offences Act ; and

(b) the number of persons prosecuted under the said Act during the last two years ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF EDUCATION AND SOCIAL WELFARE (SHRI K. S. RAMASWAMY) : (a) Reappraisal of the working of Untouchability (Offences) Act was undertaken by a committee on Untouchability, Economic and Educational Development of the Scheduled Castes set up in 1965 under the Chairmanship of Shri L. Elayaperumal. The Committee in its report submitted in 1969 made recommendations for the amendment of the Act with a view to making it more stringent. The matter of making necessary amendments to the Act is under consideration of Government.

(b) Information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the Sabha in due course.

Financial Assistance for Modifying old Schools in Kerala

*296. SHRI A. K. GOPALAN : Will the Minister of EDUCATION AND SOCIAL WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Kerala Government have represented to the Central Government for financial assistance of 85 crore Rupees for modifying the old schools and starting new ones, if so, the details thereof ; and

(b) the reaction of the Central Government thereon ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF EDUCATION AND

SOCIAL WELFARE (SHRI D. P. YADAVA) : (a) and (b). The Government of Kerala has indicated that its requirements for clearing the backlog of school buildings and for new schools envisaged in the Fourth Plan are about Rs. 10.59 crores. These estimates along with the estimates of other States for school buildings are being considered by a special committee of the Central Advisory Board of Education.

शिक्षा उपकर

*297. श्री हुकुम चन्द कछवाय : क्या शिक्षा और समाज कल्याण मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि .

(क) क्या उनके मंत्रालय ने राज्य सरकारों से शिक्षा उपकर लगाने की सिफारिश की है ,

(ख) इस सम्बन्ध में किन-किन राज्य सरकारों ने अब तक अपने विचार व्यक्त किये हैं ; और

(ग) उन्होंने क्या विचार व्यक्त किये हैं ?

शिक्षा और समाज कल्याण मंत्रालय में उप-मंत्री (श्री डी० पी० यादव) : (क) जी हा । शिक्षा के लिए विनिधान, सभी स्तरों पर शिक्षा का पूरी तरह से विकास करने हेतु आवश्यक धन से इतना कम हो गया है, कि शिक्षा सम्बन्धी राज्य के प्रयत्नों में सहायता देने और उन्हें आगे बढ़ाने हेतु स्थानीय साधनों को प्रत्येक सम्भव तरीके से जुटाना अनिवार्य हो गया है । इसलिए, शिक्षा तथा समाज कल्याण मंत्रालय, राज्य सरकारों को, अतिरिक्त साधन जुटाने के लिए अनेक उपाय काम में लाने के लिए, लगातार सुझाव देना रहा है । इनमें से एक, प्राथमिक शिक्षा के लिए निर्धारित शिक्षा उपकर लगाना है ।

(ख) और (ग). आन्ध्र प्रदेश, बिहार, गुजरात, केरल, महाराष्ट्र, मैसूर, राजस्थान, तमिलनाडु और पश्चिम बंगाल जैसे अनेक