

thefts of beautiful sculpture have taken place;

(d) whether it is also a fact that even descriptive name plates have not been placed before these caves and sculptures inside them and there is no arrangement of guides to explain the sculptures to thousands of students and visitors who visit these caves daily; and

(e) if so, what steps Government contemplate towards proper up-keep and renovation of these national treasures?

THE MINISTER OF EDUCATION AND YOUTH SERVICES (DR. V. K. R. V. RAO): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Some books mention this but the veracity of such statement has not been established.

(c) No, Sir. The cave temples are being well looked after by the Archaeological Survey of India ever since they were taken over for protection as monuments of national importance in 1951. No thefts of sculptures have been reported since then.

(d) No, Sir. Labels identifying sculptures have been provided in the important caves at Ellora. At Ajanta, as the descriptive scenes or *Jataka* scenes are often grouped and intermixed, such labels instead of being a help are likely to cause confusion. At Ellora in addition to a Departmental Guide Lecturer there are two local licensed guides. Similarly at Ajanta there is one local licenced guide. In addition to these the Department of Tourism will shortly issue licences to sixteen guides both for Ajanta and Ellora.

(e) Repairs and other measures for preservation of these national treasures are undertaken as and when found necessary.

Beating of A Ph.D. Student in I. A. R. I.,
New Delhi

*119. SHRI DEVEN SEN:
SHRI BIBHUTI MISHRA:
SHRI D. N. PATODIA:
SHRIMATI SAVITRI SHYAM:
SHRI M. L. SONDHII:

SHRI CHENGALRAYA
NAIDU:

SHRI B. K. DAS CHOWDHURY:

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a Ph.D. student of the Indian Agricultural Research Institute, New Delhi was beaten by the Police on the 4th January, 1969 after being stopped from going to the farm on which he was working and which was to be shown to the Shah of Iran during his visit to Delhi;

(b) whether an inquiry has been conducted into the matter; and

(c) if so, the result thereof and the action taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI Y. B. CHAVAN): (a) A complaint in this behalf was received.

(b) The Sub Divisional Magistrate, Tughlak Road, New Delhi, was directed to hold an inquiry into the matter.

(c) The Sub Divisional Magistrate examined 23 witnesses besides the research scholar who was alleged to have been beaten, and the police official who was alleged to have beaten him. He came to the conclusion, on the basis of evidence recorded by him that the allegation of beating of the research scholar has not been substantiated.

Abolition of Octroi

*120. SHRI MUHAMMAD SHERIFF:
Will the Minister of TRANSPORT AND SHIPPING be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to direct the State Governments to abolish octroi as quickly as possible since it is a great hindrance in the economic development of the country apart from being a source of corruption; and

(b) whether Government propose to suggest to State Governments any other substitute source of income in place of