

SHRI RAJESH PILOT: Mr. Speaker, Sir, it is difficult to say anything about particular road which hon. Member has mentioned. I can say anything about it only after getting it surveyed.

SHRI RAMSWAROOP RAM: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the situation in Bihar is very bad but even then, the Members of Bihar are not given any opportunity to ask anything (*Interruptions*)

[*English*]

Non-Return of Konark Sculptures sent for Festival of India

* 49 **SHRI SRIBALLAV PANIGRAHI:** Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether five priceless 13th century sculptures of the famous sun temple at Konark, which were sent for display at Festival of India have not been returned to the Konark museum of Archaeological Survey of India so far;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the details of steps taken to bring back these priceless sculptures to the Konark Museum?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF EDUCATION AND CULTURE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI L. P. SHAHI): (a) to (c). The following five art objects had been obtained from the Archaeological Site Museum of Archaeological Survey of India at Konark by the National Museum, New Delhi for display abroad;

- i) Vyala,
- ii) Mithuna,

iii) Makara Head,

iv) Lady with bird,

v) Lady with Veena.

The exhibits mentioned at (i) to (iv) are being returned to Archaeological Survey of India shortly. The art object mentioned at (v) above is required for yet another exhibition abroad and its return will hence take some more time.

SHRI SRIBALLAV PANIGRAHI: Sir, I would like to know from the hon. Minister as to when were these five art objects from Konark museum received and when were they displayed for the last time. What is the reason that immediately after their last display, they were not returned back to Orissa? Why there has been delay and when will they be returned?

SHRI L. P. SHAHI: Some of the art objects are still under display in U.S.S.R. Our aim is to send them together. So, four of the art objects will be sent together as soon as we receive the articles from Russia in a month or so. About the fifth one, it is being displayed in another exhibition. Therefore, it will be sent later.

SHRI SRIBALLAV PANIGRAHI: Sir, there is some contradiction in the reply. In the reply, the hon. Minister has said that "The exhibits mentioned at (i) to (iv) above are being returned to Archaeological Survey of India shortly". But now the Minister says that they are still being displayed. There are some news reports that some of these art objects were missing and some were damaged. I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether it has come to the notice of the Government and whether there is any truth in the allegation mentioned in the news reports about the missing of the art objects and the damage of the art objects.

SHRI L. P. SHAHI: Sir, two of the art objects were slightly damaged. They were insured. A committee was constituted for looking into the insurance claim and that has also been settled.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

[*Translation*]

Districts not served by Railways

*47. SHRI KEYUR BHUSHAN: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of districts still not served by railways;

(b) whether any time bound programme is proposed to be taken up to bring these districts within the railway net work; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA): (a) to (c). A Statement is given below:

STATEMENT

(a) 78.

(b) and (c). Construction of New Lines is not undertaken merely with a view to link a particular district but to meet with specific transportation requirements. However, construction is in progress for following rail lines, which will link some of the districts not so far served by rail :-

S. No.	New Line	Districts not yet linked, to be linked (State/U.T.)
1.	Jammu Tawi-Udhampur	Udhampur (J & K)
2.	Guna-Etawah	Shivpuri (M.P.)
3.	Silchar-Jiribam	Tamenglong (Manipur)
4.	Amguri-Tuli (work held up at present)	Mokokchung (Nagaland)
5.	Balipara-Bhalukpong	West Kameng (Arunachal Pradesh)
6.	Lalabazar-Bhairabi	Aizawl (Mizoram)

[*English*]

Expenditure on Festival of India in USSR and Soviet Festival in India

*48. DR. A.K. PATIL: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the expenditure incurred on the recent Festival of India in the Soviet Union and Soviet Festival in India; and

(b) the resultant achievements?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF EDUCATION AND CULTURE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI L.P. SHAHI): (a) The expenditure to date is estimated as follows :-

Festival of India in Soviet Union	Rs. 8.50 crores (approx)
USSR Festival in India	Rs. 12.50 crores (approx)