

अध्यक्ष महोदय : अगले दो-तीन दिन में में रख देता हूँ ।

श्री मधु लिमये : इस में प्राथमिकता का प्रश्न पैदा हो जायगा ।

अध्यक्ष महोदय : प्राथमिकता दे दी जायगी ।

Post Offices in Rented Buildings in Punjab

*1368. **Shri Daljit Singh:** Will the Minister of Communications be pleased to state:

(a) the number of Post Offices in the Punjab State housed in rented buildings at present; and

(b) the rent paid by Government for such Post Offices during 1965?

The Parliamentary Secretary in the Department of Communications (Shri Bhanu Prakash Singh): (a) 685.

(b) Rs. 3,20,374.

Shri Daljit Singh: May I know how many post offices have been built in the third plan period in Punjab and what is the programme for the fourth plan to construct such buildings?

The Minister of State in the Departments of Parliamentary Affairs and Communications (Shri Jaganatha Rao): Most of the buildings at Kangra, Patiala and Chandigarh are under construction. The construction of 32 post offices has been sanctioned. Land has been acquired or is under acquisition for construction of buildings at 22 places. It is not possible to give the target figures of the fourth plan, because as and when the need arises, post offices will be set up.

Shri Sham Lal Saraf: May I know whether any instructions have been issued to post office authorities to ask for rent-free quarters in newly developed areas in case the residents of these areas or colonies ask for opening of post offices and, if not, whether the post office authorities will be in-

structed to open post offices in those areas where new colonies have come up?

Shri Jaganatha Rao: Residential accommodation is a big problem. Wherever possible, we are getting residential accommodation from local State Governments or even in new colonies.

Shri Sham Lal Saraf: They asked for rent-free accommodation.

Shri Jaganatha Rao: Rent-free accommodation is not possible; only on payment of rent.

Shri Thimmaiah: Has the Government found it economical to have these post offices in rented buildings; if not, have they got any scheme to replace these rented building by departmental buildings?

Shri Jaganatha Rao: Rented buildings are not really economical; but then we cannot have buildings all at one time. It is a very costly affair.

Shri M. R. Krishna: May I know whether usually to open post offices in Tribal and other areas, where the concentration of population is from the weaker section, Government insists that the building should be provided by the people?

Shri Jaganatha Rao: There is no such consideration. Wherever it is found necessary to open a post office, certainly it is being opened. No such insistence is being made to my knowledge.

Shri M. R. Krishna: That is the condition precedent.

Shri Nath Pai: We want specific information.

श्री गुलशन : क्या मन्त्री महोदय बतलाने की कृपा करेंगे कि पंजाब में डिस्ट्रिक्ट भटिण्डा में जो डाकघर हैं उनमें से कितने ऐसे हैं जो सरकारी इमारतों में हैं ?

अध्यक्ष महोदय : जिला भटिण्डा की इनफार्मेशन इस वक्त इनके पास कहाँ होगी?

Shri Jaganatha Rao: It is in the main answer.

Shri Daji: Sir, it may not be possible for the Department to give a detailed estimate for the Fourth Plan, but has the Department any rough estimate as to the number of buildings that it would like to erect during the Fourth Plan and the amount of money that they have demanded from the Planning Commission?

The Minister of Parliamentary Affairs and Communications (Shri Satya Narayan Sinha): The Planning Commission slashed the demand which we had made. We have not got more than 15 per cent of our demands.

Shri Daji: What was the demand?

Shri Satya Narayan Sinha: About Rs. 115 crores.

Archaeological Treasure

***1369, Shri P. R. Chakraverti:** Will the Minister of Education be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have taken into account the fact that there has been a steady depletion of India's archaeological treasure;

(b) whether Government propose to enact legislation to check it, requiring all private owners of antiquities to declare them;

(c) whether Government have evolved any effective formula to ensure that valuable antiquities do not find their way in foreign museums through questionable activities of dealers acting for foreign buyers; and

(d) whether it is a fact that precious pieces of sculpture hidden among the stones by firms licensed to export stones only have been exported?

The Deputy Minister in the Ministry of Education (Shri Bhakt Darshan): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The proposal is under consideration.

(c) The antiquities (Export Control) Act, 1947, already forbids the export of antiquities except under a licence. Licences for export are issued only for such of the antiquities, as can be exported without detriment to National interests.

(d) No such case has, so far, come to the notice of this Ministry.

Shri P. R. Chakraverti: In view of the depletion of our valuable resources, may I know whether Government has got any scheme for setting up a central organisation to control the export of such antiquities?

Shri Bhakt Darshan: Every export licence has to be inquired into first by the Director General of Archaeology and when he makes his recommendation that at the highest level the export licence is sanctioned; not before that.

Shri P. R. Chakraverti: While appreciating the efforts taken by the Education Ministry in preserving these antiquities, may I know whether Government has taken into account that the house where Mahatma Gandhi passed away in New Delhi will be a matter of later history for generations to come; if so, what steps have been taken to acquire it and make it a national property?

Shri Bhakt Darshan: This question has been raised in this House several times and when it was raised on the last occasion I promised that the matter would be brought to the notice of the Prime Minister. That has been done, but no final decision has so far been taken.

An hon. Member: The Government is very helpless against the Birlas.

Shri Narendra Singh Mahida: In Gujarat a very valuable find has been excavated at Lothal which relates to the Mohenjodaro era. All these findings are rotting in the museum at Baroda and other places. May I know whether Government proposes to establish a museum for these valuable treasures, including precious