

Smuggling out of Treasures from Asiatic Society, Calcutta

1147. DR. SAROJINI MAHISHI:
SHRI MUKHTIAR SINGH MALIK:

Will the Minister of EDUCATION, SOCIAL WELFARE AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news item published in the *Blitz* dated the 23rd September, 1978 wherein it has been stated that Treasure Thieves stalk Calcutta and the evidence reveals that International Art thieves are in Calcutta to pilfer and smuggle out invaluable art and literary treasures from Asiatic Society, Calcutta; and

(b) if so, whether any action has since been taken by Government and if so, with what result?

THE MINISTER OF EDUCATION, SOCIAL WELFARE AND CULTURE (DR. PRATAP CHANDRA CHUNDER): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) This has been brought to the notice of the State Government and customs authorities and they have been advised to take necessary preventive measures. The management of the Asiatic Society, Calcutta has also been advised to exercise utmost vigilance.

Complaint from Kerala re. Disparity in Food Subsidy

1148. DR. SAROJINI MAHISHI:
SHRI G. M. BANATWALLA:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND IRRIGATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Central Government have since received any complaint from the State Government of Kerala regarding disparity in food subsidy;

(b) if so, nature of disparity pointed out; and

(c) reaction of the Government of India thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND IRRIGATION (SHRI BHANU PRATAP SINGH): (a) and (b). The Chief Minister of Kerala had written to the Central Government in July last pointing out that while there was a subsidy of Rs. 23.39 per quintal on wheat and Rs. 13.24 on coarse grains, the subsidy on rice was only 4 paise per quintal. He suggested that the available amount of food subsidy should be applied in an equitable manner on wheat, rice and coarse grains.

(c) Taking into consideration the recommendations of the Agricultural Prices Commission and on the basis of discussions held with the Chief Ministers/Food Ministers of State Governments on the price and procurement policy of kharif cereals in the marketing year 1978-79, the Government have fixed the support price of coarse paddy at Rs. 85 per quintal against Rs. 77 per quintal in the last marketing season. The issue price of rice for public distribution system has, however, been maintained at last year's level. As a result of this the subsidy on rice is now about Rs. 13 per quintal.

Demolition in Tughlakabad, Delhi

1149. SHRI SAUGATA ROY: Will the Minister of WORKS AND HOUSING AND SUPPLY AND REHABILITATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether there has been demolitions recently in Tughlakabad near Delhi;

(b) if so, what were the reasons for demolitions; and

(c) whether Government are thinking of evolving a uniform policy on unauthorised colonies in New Delhi?