

(b) A statement showing the pay scales of various grades of employees of the Rivers Steam Navigation Co., and of those of the Central Inland Water Transport Corporation is laid on the table of the House. [*Placed in Library. See, No. LT—683/71*],

**American Foundations Operating in Educational and Social Welfare Field**

5155. SHRI JYOTIRMOY BOSU : Will the Minister of EDUCATION AND SOCIAL WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) the number of American Foundations (P) operating in India in the educational and social welfare field ; and

(b) whether Government have taken any steps to control their activities ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF EDUCATION AND SOCIAL WELFARE AND IN THE DEPARTMENT OF CULTURE (SHRI D. P. YADAVA) : (a) According to available information, nine American Foundations are rendering financial assistance in the form of grants/fellowships.

(b) Assistance by these Foundations is given only with the approval of the Government of India.

**International Gang of Idol Lifters**

5156. SHRI BIRENDER SINGH RAO : Will the Minister of EDUCATION AND SOCIAL WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have seen the press report in the 'Hindustan Times' dated the 30th June, 1971 wherein it has been stated that an international gang of idol lifters is currently busy in stealing precious idols from various temples and holy shrines in the hilly regions of Jammu ;

(b) if so, the number of idols which have been stolen during the last one year from different hilly areas of Simla and Jammu and Kashmir ; and

(c) the steps taken or proposed to be taken by Government to stop this menace ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF EDUCATION AND SOCIAL WELFARE AND IN THE DEPARTMENT OF CULTURE (SHRI D. P. YADAVA) : (a) and (b). Yes, Sir. The Lakshmi Narayan and Gupta-Ganga temples at Bharderwah from where four idols are reported to have been stolen are not centrally protected monuments. There has, however, been no theft of art objects from any Centrally protected monuments, sites and museums in the hilly areas of Jammu and Kashmir State during the last one year. Only one theft was reported from the Centrally protected monuments/sites in Himachal Pradesh during the period 1968 to date.

(c) The measures taken or proposed to be taken to prevent thefts from monuments, museums and to prevent illegal export of antiquities have already been stated in reply to part (b), (c) and (d) of Unstarred Question No. 1989 answered in the Lok Sabha on 11.6.71.

**Proposal to Purchase High Capacity Air-bus type of aircraft on routes operated by Indian Airlines**

5157. SHRI BIRENDER SINGH RAO : SHRI DEVINDER SINGH GAR-CHA :

Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is any proposal under the consideration of Government to purchase and fly high capacity air-bus type of aircraft on major routes operated by Indian Airlines ;

(b) whether Government are negotiating with some foreign firms for the purchase of the above-mentioned type of aircraft ; and

(c) whether any agreement has been reached with any of the firms so far, and if so, the terms of agreement ?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION (DR. KARAN SINGH) : (a) and (b). No, Sir. The management of Indian Airlines is, however, making a study of its fleet requirements during the current decade.

(c) Does not arise.