

civilian school masters towards their subsequent services under various establishments of Ministry of Defence for pension purpose ;

(b) whether this benefit has been given effect only from the 1st April, 1970 ;

(c) whether the decision to give this benefit was taken on a representation ;

(d) whether this benefit has been denied to the person who represented, if so, the reason therefor ; and

(e) whether his Ministry has received representations from several other affected civilian school masters, if so, his reaction thereto ?

**THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI JAGJIWAN RAM) :** (a) to (e). Orders were issued in April, 1970, for counting for pension service rendered by civilians working in lieu of combatants, when followed by other pensionable civil service, in the same manner as extra temporary establishment/casual service, subject to the normal conditions for counting casual service when followed by pensionable service being fulfilled. These orders took effect from 1st April 1970. Although the proposal for counting such service in lieu of combatants had been initiated as a result of an earlier representation, and further representations have also since been received, the orders have not been given retrospective effect, as according to accepted Government policy, progressive financial concessions are not normally given retrospective effect. The individual who had represented first could not be given the benefit of these orders as he retired in 1965.

**Representation from Members of Parliament Re : Release of Sheikh Mujibur Rahman**

**2700. SHRIMATI BHARGAVI THAN-KAPPAN :** Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have received any representations from Members of Parliament in order to take initiative in creating a strong world opinion to secure the unconditional release of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman from West Pakistan jail ; and

(b) if so, the reaction of Government thereto ?

**THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI SURENDRA PAL SINGH) :** (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Government have been in touch with friendly foreign Governments on this matter and urged them to ensure the safety of Sheikh Mujibur Rehman and his family members.

**Local People Employed in Aero Engine Factory at Sonabeda**

**2701. SHRI K. PRADHANI :** Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state :

(a) the percentage of local people employed in various class of services in the Aero Engine Factory at Sonabeda ; and

(b) the percentage of employment given to people belonging to Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribes ?

**THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI JAGJIWAN RAM) :** (a) The percentage of people belonging to Orissa State employed in various classes of services in the Aero engine factory at Sunabeda is about 45%.

(b) The percentage of employment given to people belonging to Scheduled Castes and Tribes is about 4.3% and 1.3% respectively.

**Manufacture of Nuclear Submarines by China**

**2702. SHRI RAO BIRENDER SINGH :** Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have seen the report in various sections of the press wherein it has been stated that China has started making Nuclear Submarines ; and

(b) if so, the steps taken or proposed to be taken by Government of India in this regard ?

**THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI JAGJIWAN RAM) :** (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Government are aware of the nature

and extent of likely threat from Chinese Submarines. All possible steps to strengthen and increase our anti-submarine forces—both surface and air-borne—are being taken.

12.01 hrs.

### CALLING ATTENTION TO MATTER OF URGENT PUBLIC IMPORTANCE

REPORTED THEFT OF SCULPTURES FROM KHAJURAHO AND A BRONZE STATUE FROM CHAMBA TEMPLE

SHRI VIKRAM CHAND MAHAJAN (Kangra): Sir, I beg call the attention of the Minister of Education and Social Welfare to the following matter of urgent public importance and I request that he may make a statement thereon :—

"The reported removal of hundreds of famed erotic sculptures from Khajuraho, their alleged sale to foreign countries and sale of a life-sized bronze statue of Lord Vishnu stolen from a temple in Chamba, Himachal Pradesh, for fifty lakhs [of rupees to a U. S. Buyer."

THE MINISTER OF EDUCATION AND SOCIAL WELFARE, AND MINISTER OF DEPARTMENT OF CULTURE (SHRI SIDDHARTHA SHANKAR RAY): I am grateful to the Honourable Members for drawing attention to a grave problem which is causing considerable concern to the Government and is under its active consideration. Theft of our art objects is a serious matter and it goes without saying that the question has to be dealt with thoroughly and sternly. I have written to the Chief Ministers of a number of States for the purpose of deputing responsible officers to a conference called on 30th June, 1971 by me for the purpose of discussing this issue and formulating an adequate scheme whereby such thefts are checked and controlled. The Government has also already taken several steps in order to prevent such thefts and the illegal smuggling out of our country of our art objects. These steps up till now have been :

(1) Loose sculptures in and around Centrally

protected monuments, which cannot be adequately safeguarded *in situ*, are being collected and stored in sculpture sheds where they could be better looked after.

- (2) Watch-and-ward staff of Centrally protected monuments has been strengthened. 1695 more posts of monument Attendants have been sanctioned and are in the course of being filled up.
- (3) State Governments have been requested to provide police guards at selected museums and monuments under the Archaeological Survey of India.
- (4) Watch-and-ward staff of the Survey has also been warned to be more vigilant. Cases of thefts are required to be immediately reported to the police.
- (5) As soon as cases of thefts are detected, intimation is also sent to the Expert Advisory Committee and Customs Authorities at major ports to watch out for the stolen antiques being smuggled out of the country.
- (6) In order to have complete documentation of sculptures at centrally protected monuments, a phased programme is being drawn up by the Survey. Documentation will facilitate the identification of stolen sculptures and will check smuggling of art objects. Necessary staff has been sanctioned for this purpose.
- (7) It is proposed to enter into bilateral agreements with foreign countries to stop flow of antiquities by illegal means.
- (8) It is proposed to give in-service training to customs staff for identifying antiquities, so that they may be able to detect these if attempted to be smuggled out of India. Six posts of Deputy Superintending Archaeologists have been sanctioned on the strength of the Archaeological Survey of India for being posted at important air and sea ports to help custom authorities in checking smuggling of antiquities to foreign countries.