

The recommendations of the Conference will be examined by the Government. A decision will be taken by the Government on the recommendations after such examination.

Agency/Institution for testing Food-grains imported in India

7854. SHRI PHOOL CHAND VERMA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have any agency of its own or any other institution or have appointed any authority for testing foodgrains imported in India; and

(b) if not, the reasons for not making such appointment?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI ANNASAHEB P. SHINDE):

(a) Yes Sir. Government has a laboratory of its own for testing the imported foodgrains.

(b) Does not arise.

12 hrs.

CALLING ATTENTION TO MATTER OF URGENT PUBLIC IMPORTANCE

REPORTED CONTROVERSY OVER EXPORT OF SHIVALIK FOSSILS TO U.S.A.

SHRI B. V. NAIK (Kanara): I call the attention of the Minister of Education, Social Welfare and Culture to the following matter of urgent public importance and I request that he may make a statement thereon:

The reported controversy over export of Shivalik fossils to U.S.A.

THE MINISTER OF EDUCATION, SOCIAL WELFARE AND CULTURE (PROF. S. NURUL HASAN): A joint collaborative programme of study and search of earliest Hominids in the Siwalik Hills (North India) between the Punjab University, Chandigarh

and the Yale University, Peabody Museum, U.S.A. was approved initially for a period of two years in 1967. The work on the project started in March, March, 1968. Owing to serious differences that arose during the operation of the project between the American field team and the Indian team, the project was suspended by the Vice-Chancellor Punjab University in April, 1969. In December, 1969 the Syndicate of the University decided that the project may be continued independently by the University's Department of Anthropology within the resources of the University. In August, 1972, it was agreed that the project may be assisted through grants-in-aid by the Anthropological Survey of India. An Advisory Committee was also set up for the project.

Prof. Simons of Yale University visited Chandigarh in May, 1972 to negotiate for the sharing of the fossils with the Punjab University. During the course of discussions he was requested to clarify certain points. He assured that he would consult the appropriate authorities in the United States, in this connection. No further reference has been received by the Punjab University so far from Prof Simons

According to the Vice-Chancellor, Punjab University, it could not be said for certain but it is likely that casts of some important fossils may have been prepared and sent to U.S.A. during the period the original fossils were in the custody of the Yale University team. Government has no information whether any fossils have been actually taken out of India.

Under the Antiquities and Art Treasurers Act, 1972, a specific provision exists that it shall not be lawful for any person other than the Central Government or any authority or agency authorised by the Central Government in this behalf to export any antiquity, which, *inter-alia*, includes any article or object or thing illustrative of Science in bygone ages.

SHRI B. V. NAIK: The Minister has clarified that it shall not be lawful to export any item of antiquity or any item of art value.

I have information that in one of the very old and ancient temples of South India, in the State of Mysore, that is, in Halebedu, Belur, precious articles of art and carving and sculpture, through a particular racket, are being exported first to Nepal and thereafter they are taken out of that country. Sir, I understand that this is confined to the export of fossils and it may not be out of context here if I mention that besides the fossils the paintings have been stolen from the Chandigarh Museum. Budha's statues have been stolen from the Bombay museum and as on April 1972, 150 idols had been removed from all over the country. In this country there is no such market for these items of antiquity. The common man or even the art dealer will not know what exactly fossils are, the value of the idols and the antiquated art. Under the circumstances, since both the fossils and the fossil casts are of extreme importance from the point of view of further scientific research in order to find out and know the ancestry or the pre-history of man, how do we coordinate so that the scientific objects which the western acquisitive society would be too keen to acquire and possess do not leave our country and what is it we are trying to do in an ancient country like ours? How are we to protect them? Today it may not be important from our point of view, but from the point of scientific investigations and from the point of view of our cultural advancement, if we part company with an art treasure or a fossil treasure, we may not be able to reclaim it at any time. I do understand that the world scientific community is shrinking and we are becoming a global village. But since we have accepted the codes of conduct in a civilised scientific society and have a culture of our own how

does our Ministry of Education and Culture assure to this country that the past heritage of our culture as well as the present assets which we create through the scientific investigation by our well-known scientists are preserved? In this behalf I would say that the statement made by Dr. Sharma is very categorical—as it has appeared on the 18th April—that the Yale university as well as the West German scientists are very keen to take over these fossils and transport them. Will the hon. Minister assure us that such sort of exploitation of our country does not take place? What are the measures he has devised in this behalf?

PROF. S. NURUL HASAN: So far as Shivalik fossils are concerned, I have made enquiries from all possible sources and I have been assured that no fossils are missing. No fossil can be taken out of the country except with the permission of the Government of India in view of the law which this House and the other House have been pleased to make only last year and I had stated on that occasion what the policy of the Government in this regard was going to be. We do not want that these objects should be taken away. As regards casts, we are quite willing to send out casts and to get casts from other places, because casts are not covered by the Act which has been passed by Parliament.

श्री मूल चन्द्र झागा (पाली) : अध्यक्ष महोदय, हिन्दुस्तान के लिए, और खास तौर से हिमाचल प्रदेश के लिए, यह एक गर्व की बात होगी कि पचास लाख से घटती लाख वर्ष पुराने फ़ॉसिल का एक बड़ा फ़्रील्ड म्यूजियम हिमाचल प्रदेश में साकेती में बनने जा रहा है। गवर्नमेंट ने उस के लिए जमीन एक्वायर करली है और मिनिस्ट्री ऑफ़ स्टील एंड माइन्स ने उस के लिए 45,000 रुपये की स्वीकृत दे दी है।

[श्री मूलबन्ध द्वारा]

यह ख़शी की बात है कि हमारे प्रोफ़ेसर साहब इतने झुठ हृदय के व्यक्ति हैं कि वह यह नहीं चाहते कि हमारी किसी यूनिवर्सिटी के बारे में कोई गलत बात कही जाये या कोई भ्रमण किया जाये। लेकिन उचित यही है कि अगर पंजाब यूनिवर्सिटी में कोई गोल-माल हुआ है, तो उस को इस सदन के सामने रखा जाये।

इंडियन एसोसिएशन आफ़ दि फ़िजीकल एन्थ्रोपोजिस्ट्स के सक्टेरी, डा० अभिमन्यु शर्मा, ने यह आरोप लगाया है कि बड़ी भारी तादाद में फ़ासिलज और अन्य बहुमूल्य वस्तुएँ चोरी करके यू० एस० ए० की एम्बेसी में रखी गईं। डा० अभिमन्यु शर्मा ने जो कुछ कहा है, वह मैं आप की सेवा में रखना चाहता हूँ :

"He regretted that certain fossils were stolen away and these were taken to the U.S. Embassy."

उन्होंने आगे कहा :

"Dr. Abhimanyu Sharma, Secretary of the Indian Association of Physical Anthropologists today demanded a similar step against U.S. scientists wanting to explore the Shivaliks."

वैस्ट जर्मन साइंटिस्ट्स के साथ जो बीस साल का एग्रीमेंट हुआ उस के बारे में उन्होंने कहा है :

"He revealed that the West German team had been asked to go back after it had made a collaboration agreement for a major 20-year research project...."

13 मई, 1972 के एक अख़बार में बताया गया है कि अमरीकनो ने इस सम्बन्ध में पृथ्वीजीत सिंह की सहायता ली, जो पंजाब यूनिवर्सिटी का स्टोरकीपर था और जो यूनिवर्सिटी के रजिस्ट्रार, जगजीत सिंह, का बड़का है। अख़बार में कहा गया है :

"...in fact, is now in a position to disclose that some fossils were actually taken from Chandigarh to the U.S. Embassy's premises in New Delhi. The fossils were returned only after the Punjab University's Department had lodged a strong protest with the U.S. authorities."

पंजाब यूनिवर्सिटी और येल यूनिवर्सिटी आपस में कोलैबोरेशन कर के रिसर्च कर रहे थे। इस सम्बन्ध में जो कॉन्फ़्रेंस हुई, उसमें यह निर्णय लिया गया :

"The Conference notes with regret that there is not enough active co-operation between scholars in various institutions. This had detrimental effect on the quality of work carried out and has also led to an avoidable duplication of research which a country like India with limited resources can ill afford."

The Conference urges the institutions concerned to take better advantage of the existing facilities for exchange of visiting scholars under the UGC scheme of visiting professors and scholars.

The Conference wishes to emphasise that collaboration should not be confined to universities but should include all organisations carrying on anthropological and sociological research.

It notes with regret that there is very little communication between university departments and the Government research institutions both at the all-India and the State level and it stresses the need to take the necessary steps to exchange personnel on a temporary basis between the universities and Government research organisations."

इस निर्णय के अनुसार वैस्ट जर्मनी के साइंटिस्ट्स को बुलाया गया। लेकिन जब वे यहाँ आये, तो उन का सारा सामान

श्री एशियाटिक इन्स्टीट्यूट डिपार्टमेंट में ही पड़ा रहा और उनको वापिस भेज दिया गया ।

इस बारे में झगड़ा यह हुआ है कि पंजाब यूनिवर्सिटी और येल यूनिवर्सिटी ने मिल कर रिसर्च का काम किया और बाद में बंगाल की एशियाटिक सोसायटी ने येल यूनिवर्सिटी के प्रोफेसर सिमन्ज को इनाम दिया। इस पर पंजाब यूनिवर्सिटी ने प्रोटेस्ट किया कि काम तो हम दोनों ने किया है, केवल उस व्यक्ति को इनाम क्यों मिल रहा है ।

इस बारे में समाचार पत्र में कहा गया है :

"Dr. Sharma released a resolution adopted by his Association viewing with 'serious concern the award of the Annadale Medal to Dr. E. L. Simons of Yale University by the Asiatic Society of Bengal' on the basis of the joint research by the teams of Punjab and Yale Universities. It 'registers its strongest protest with the Asiatic Society of Bengal' as its action was 'likely to do irreparable damage to the national interests.'"

जैसा कि मैंने बताया है, बड़ी तादाद में शिवालिक फ़ॉसिल्स चोरी हुए और उन्हें एमेरिकन एम्बेसी में ले जाया गया। यह बात डा० अभिमन्यु शर्मा ने कही है। मैं जानना चाहता हूँ कि क्या उन का यह स्टेटमेंट गलत है। पंजाब यूनिवर्सिटी के स्टोरकीपर पृथ्वीजीत सिंह की सहायता से यह सब कुछ हुआ। वह पंजाब यूनिवर्सिटी के रजिस्ट्रार का लड़का है और उसका एक भाई भ्रमरीका में है। मंत्री महोदय का उत्तर बड़ा गोलमोल है और उन्होंने स्थिति को स्पष्ट नहीं किया है।

बंकी महोदय ने कहा है कि जब एन्टि-डिबटीज एक्ट के अधीन रजिज बनाए जायेंगे तब यह एक्ट लागू होगा। मैं यह जानना चाहता हूँ कि क्या इस एक्ट के तहत कोई केस रजिस्टर किया गया है।

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शिवालिक के फ़ॉसिल्स के बारे में हिन्दुस्तान के सब प्रख़बारों में ख़बरें छपी हैं। 13 मई, 1972 के एक प्रख़बार में बताया गया है :

"Prithi, no wonder, was treated by the Yale workers as their chum. They reserved their insults for other Indian workers. Strangely the fossils were taken to Delhi by the Americans when Prithi was in charge of the Store".

उस को हटा दिया गया है। पंजाब यूनिवर्सिटी में जो इनवैल्युएबल फ़ॉसिल्स और दूसरी चीजें थी, उन की चोरी हुई। (ध्यवधान) प्रो० पाराशर कहते हैं कि विद्या के मन्दिरों में चोरी होने लगी है। मैं यह जानना चाहता हूँ कि क्या पंजाब गर्वनमेंट या एजुकेशन मिनिस्ट्री ने इस बारे में कोई इन्क्वायरी की है।

तो मेरे कुछ स्पेसिफ़िक क्वेश्चनस हैं। पहला क्वेश्चन तो यह है कि जो आप के शिवालिका के फ़ॉसाइल हैं... (ध्यवधान) उन का क्या वहाँ पर कोई वाच एंड वाइर्स कोई पहरा गर्वनमेंट ने रखा है। जीवावशेष कहिए.....

श्री मधु सिन्घे (बांका) : मेरा कहने का मतलब यह था कि जब आप हिन्दी में बोला करिए तो फ़ॉसाइल न कहा कहिएगा। जीवावशेष कहिये।

श्री मूल खन्ड ड्याग : जीवावशेष कहिए। ठीक कह रहे हैं माननीय सदस्य।

तो जीवावशेष जो 50 लाख, 80 लाख साल पुराने थे उन का कोई फ़ील्ड म्यूजियम सरकार या एजुकेशन डिपार्टमेंट बनाने जा रहा है ?

क्या यह जीवावशेष जब चोरी गए या जब पंजाब यूनिवर्सिटी की से ख़बरें प्रख़बारों में निकलीं तो एजुकेशन डिपार्टमेंट ने कोई इन्क्वायरी की, उन की कोई जांच करवाई ?

[श्री मूलचन्द्र शर्मा]

प्राप जो भी ऐन्थ्रोपोलाजिस्ट्स हैं जो जीवावशेष की जांच करने वाले हैं, उन के लिए भारत सरकार या शिक्षा विभाग कितनी धनराशि खर्च करती है ?

ऐन्टिक्विटी ऐक्ट के नीचे कोई प्राप ने रूल्स बनाए हैं क्या और रूल्स बनाने से पहले क्या प्राप ने कोई केस रजिस्टर किया है ?

डा० अभिमन्यु शर्मा ने जो रिपोर्ट दी है, वह प्राप के गवर्नमेंट के एम्पलाई हैं, उस रिपोर्ट के आधार पर प्राप ने कोई एक्वायरी इंस्टीट्यूट की ? डा० अभिमन्यु शर्मा ने स्पष्ट शब्दों में कहा है कि हमारे ऐसे जीवावशेष चोरी गए हैं और चोरी से वह कितनी ही कीमत के अमेरिका में चले गए हैं। तो उन की क्या कोमत थी, उम के लिए क्या प्राप ने कोई इन्वेस्टीगेशन करवाया है या नहीं और नहीं करवाया है तो नहीं करवाने का क्या कारण था ?

"Under the Antiquities Bill, specific provision

प्राप ने यह जो बिल का हवाला दिया है अपने जवाब में उस ऐन्टिक्विटी बिल के अन्तर्गत प्राप के कौन से मजिस्ट्रेट ने कब कोई एक्वायरी की है ?

दूसरा प्राप ने उत्तर दिया है :

"During the period the original fossils were in the custody of...."

एक प्राप ने बात कही है ढंग से कि यह येल यूनिवर्सिटी कुछ जीवावशेष ले गई। क्यों ले गई ? जब वह इन्वेस्टीगेशन कर रहे थे तो प्राप के कोलेबोरेशन से कोई ऐसा समझौता हुआ था कि यू०एस०ए० के साइंटिस्ट जो एक्वायरी करेंगे वह कुछ अवशेष ले जाएंगे ? क्या वह जीवावशेष ले जाने के आधिकारी थे प्राप के एपीमेंट के अनुसार ?

प्रो० एस० मुबल हसन : अध्यक्ष महोदय, गुजारिश यह है कि जिस चीज के ऊपर माननीय सदस्य को सब से ज्यादा परेशानी है वह यह है कि फ्रांसिल्व चोरी हो गए। मैं इस सिलसिले में 9 अप्रैल की चिट्ठी की एक सतर पढ़ने की प्राप से इजाजत चाहता हूँ जो डा० एस०प्रा० के चोपड़ा हैंड ब्राफ दि डिपार्टमेंट ब्राफ ऐन्थ्रोपोलाजी, पंजाब यूनिवर्सिटी, जो को-डायरेक्टर थे उन्होंने मुझे लिखी है। उस में उन्होंने यह कहा है :

"Having failed to achieve their sinister motive of stealing fossils" etc.

तो वाईस चांसलर का भी यही बयान है और जो को-डायरेक्टर इस प्रोजेक्ट के थे डा० चोपड़ा उन का भी यह बयान है कि कोई फ्रांसिल्व चोरी नहीं हुए। इसलिए इस में कोई मजिद कार्यवाही करने की कोई जरूरत नहीं मालूम होती। अगर कोई विशेष, स्पेसिफिक इत्ला कि फलां फ्रांसिल्व चोरी हुआ और उन लोगों में से जिन्होंने कि वहां पर काम किया था उन की तरफ से प्राप, वह बयान करें तो मैं जरूर इस सिलसिले में जो भी मुनासिब कार्यवाही है वह करूंगा।

दूसरा सवाल यह पूछा गया कि कितनी धनराशि गवर्नमेंट इस सिलसिले में इस प्रोजेक्ट के लिए दे रही है ? तो इस सिलसिले में मैं यह अज्ञ कर्ूंगा कि इस साल हम ने 75 हजार रुपया ऐन्थ्रोपोलाजिकल सर्वे ब्राफ इंडिया की तरफ से इस प्रोजेक्ट के लिए दिया है और यह भी इंतजाम किया है कि हमने वाइस-चांसलर से दरखवास्त की थी और उन्होंने यह मंजूर किया है कि वह एक कमेटी बनाए जिस कमेटी में मुख्यतः लियफ लोग जो ज्यालाजिकल सर्वे ब्राफ इंडिया, ऐन्थ्रोपोलाजिकल सर्वे ब्राफ इंडिया और आर्कैलाजिकल सर्वे ब्राफ इंडिया के हैं, यह सब लोग इस के सिलसिले में मशबिरा

दें और इस सिलसिले में जो माली सहायता की जरूरत हो वह सारी सहायता पंजाब यूनिवर्सिटी के जरूरी काम में इनको पहुंचाएं।

तीसरी चीज खास तौर पर ऐंटिक्विटी ऐक्ट और ग्रांज ट्रेजर्स ऐक्ट के एन्फोर्समेंट के संबंध में कही। इसके निफाज के लिए कानून में जो रूल्स हैं वह बन रहे हैं। लेकिन इसकी जो स्पिरिट है उसके ऊपर गवर्नमेंट धमल कर रही है। यानी इजाजत देने के सिलसिले में जो बातें गवर्नमेंट की तरफ से मैंने सदन में ग्रांज की थी उन्हीं उसूलों के ऊपर इजाजत दी जाती है। उसके अलावा किसी को इसकी इजाजत नहीं दी जाती।

जो समझौता हुआ था शुरू में पंजाब यूनिवर्सिटी और येल यूनिवर्सिटी के बीच में उस समझौते में यह खासचीज थी कि जो खास खास ग्रहमियत के फ़ासिलस हैं वह तो पंजाब यूनिवर्सिटी में रहेंगे। लेकिन बाढ़ किस्म के जो डूप्लीकेट्स हैं वह दिए जा सकते हैं येल यूनिवर्सिटी को। और इसी की बातचीत के सिलसिले में प्रोफेसर साइमन पार साल मई में पंजाब आए थे और उसमें करेस्पॉन्डेंस शुरू हुई। लेकिन कोई फ़ासिल हिन्दुस्तान से बाहर उस वक्त तक नहीं भेजा जा सकता जब तक कि भारत सरकार की स्वीकृति उसमें न हो जाय और भारत सरकार की जो पालिसी इस सिलसिले में है वह मैं आप से ग्रांज कर चुका हूँ। मैं सिर्फ़ एक बात यह ग्रांज कर देना चाहता हूँ कि एशियाटिक सोसाइटी हमारे देश की बड़ी प्रसिद्ध एक संस्था है जिस में माने हुए स्कालर्स शरीक होते हैं और उन्होंने जो फ़ैसला किया वह फ़ैसला करने का उनको अधिकार था। उस में गवर्नमेंट को किसी किस्म का दखल नहीं देना चाहिए और न यह मुनासिब होगा कि गवर्नमेंट उसमें कोई दखल दे। यह उनकी जजमेंट थी, एक स्कालरली जजमेंट थी। उससे इकतलाफ़ मुमकिन है कि हो। लेकिन बहरहाल उनकी इंटेंडिटी और उन

की इंटेंडिटी एकेडमिक जजमेंट पर कम से कम मैं कोई एतराज करने को तैयार नहीं हूँ।

SHRI SAMAR GUHA (Contai): I share the anxiety that has been expressed by Dr. Abhimanyu Sharma, Secretary of the Indian Association for Physical Anthropology, but I am sorry to remark that I cannot appreciate the unscholarly statement that has been made by a scholar regarding the award that has been given to Dr. Simons by the Asiatic Society, Bengal. Why it is so, I shall say afterwards.

The Geological Survey of India, since 1950, have been trying to collect fossils in our country, but the importance of fossils has not yet been understood. It is interesting that fossils in Shivalik had given the clue to the origin of the Himalayas, the clue to the giraffe which is extinct in India and extant in Africa that giraffe originated in India and the Shivalik fossil give us an idea about that. Similarly that horse first originated in North America, but it had migrated to other countries also. Fossils give an idea of the drift of different continents, the origin of the different hills and the migration of flora and fauna. In our country the Shivalik region comprises the area from Punjab to NEFA and the whole area is a treasure house giving clues to the origin of Indian sub-continent, its flora and fauna. It is for that reason that I say that I share the anxiety. Geological Survey of India said that original fossils are not allowed to be removed but plaster casts are allowed to be taken outside, as also the photographs. But it has been pointed out that this is not foolproof. According to the Palaeontological Department of the Geological Survey of India, there is ground for apprehension. There is wanton destruction of priceless fossils in different areas of our country and also the removal of fossils from our country, because of lack of proper legal measures. In

[Shri Samar Guba]

America, you know, there are 231 national museums where the people can go and see how the fossils of the flora and fauna are kept there. That is not so in our country although it may be possible to do so. A mere Antiquity and Treasures Act is not enough to check removal or destruction of fossils. Ordinary people have no idea as to how they can be protected from being destroyed. I, of course, share the anxiety expressed by the hon. Minister. I think a point has been raised here and the hon. Minister has replied to it although it is not much important. But, from the point of view of culture and for the development of history, that is very important. Prof. Simons was given an award by the Asiatic Society of Calcutta because he is a scholar in palaeontology science. A scholar whenever or wherever he is born belongs to all ages and to all communities of the world. A scholar does not belong to a specific age or country. I do not know whether anybody knows that Prof. Simons is a very erudite scholar and that the Asiatic Society has not done anything wrong by conferring on him the award. One important point was raised here and so I want to know whether in the palaeontology science, any international collaboration is going on or not. In 1964, for the first time, in Delhi, the Geological Survey of India had that type of international collaboration in the Asian soil. For example, in the UNESCO such a kind of international collaboration is there. We are also getting many things from America and West Germany. Such an international collaboration and understanding must be there for gaining knowledge of the development of flora and fauna through this science. Some apprehension has been expressed by some innocent people. And so, I want to know whether there is any discrimination made against the West German Scientists. Also I want to know whether any

discrimination should at all be made against Scientists coming from any part of the world to India to study the fossils and who want to help us in understanding the development in Indian fossils. The only point is this: how to prevent these prized fossils not being removed from here? My second point is whether these fossils can be saved from being destroyed. I have already said that the Antiquity and Treasures Act is not enough. Certain suggestions were made in this regard. I want to know whether the Government is going to bring about a law for preservation of the fossils areas, particularly the Shivalik and other fossil areas. What are they going to do in this regard? We want to develop field museums particularly in the Shivalik areas. Regarding this, I have got with me some details but I do not want to deal with them here. I think Shri M. Roy Choudhury who is the head of the Department of Palaeontology of the Geological Survey of India has also made some concrete suggestions. I want to know whether any discrimination has been made between USA and West German Scientists and whether these fossils have been wantonly destroyed or are being destroyed, and whether the Government is going to bring about a law for the preservation of these fossils. My further question is this. Are we going to open a national parks in the Shivalik and other areas as has been done in other countries? Is there any international collaboration for developing the Science of Palaeontology in India and has the Government got anything in mind in this regard?

PROF. S. NURUL HASAN: The first question was whether any discrimination has been made against a West German scholar in the study of fossils. To the best of my knowledge, no West German scholar had expressed any desire to undertake the study of fossils. Therefore, I am not aware of any discrimination having been made. The question that the fossil wealth of Shivaliks and other

parts of India should be saved is certainly a point with which I am sure no member of this House would disagree. Perhaps the hon. member is aware that apart from the Punjab University in Chandigarh, the Geological Survey of India, the Birbal Sahni Institute of Paleobotany and various other organisations are deeply interested in ensuring that the fossil wealth of India is saved from destruction. Various archaeologists have been working at various institutions and they are attempting to collect all these fossils. They are setting up where necessary university museums or site museums or institutional museums. Most of these organisations have been receiving support from public funds. I do not think it would be proper to set up yet another national museum for fossils alone because if any fossils can be brought to the national museum...

SHRI SAMAR GUHA: I said, national parks in different areas as is done in other countries.

PROF. S. NURUL HASAN: About national parks, it is not for my ministry to make any comments. In regard to research work and collection, the Ministry of Education is giving full support and other ministries which are concerned with geological survey like the Ministry of Steel and Mines or the Department of Science and Technology in regard to some of the other scientific institutions—all these ministries have been giving support to anthropologists, geologists and archaeologists to collect fossils and study the fossil wealth, so that these are properly catalogued and preserved. To the best of my knowledge, no misuse has been reported to me, but if any specific case is brought to my notice, I shall certainly look into the matter.

As regards the general question of international collaboration, the broad

pattern has always been that plaster casts are exchanged—nobody sends out the original fossils—and facilities are given to various scholars from foreign countries to come and study any fossils which are available in any museum. That way there has been no difficulty created by India to foreign scholars.

SHRI HARI KISHORE SINGH (Pupri): The Minister has repeatedly said that no fossils have been exported or taken out of the country. I want to know whether any register of the fossil finds has been maintained either by Government or by any other institutions. If there is no such register, how can he say with such definiteness that no fossils have been taken away from the country?

The American craze for ancient treasures is well known. It happens with anybody who becomes very rich in a very short period. Our concern is this that, like many other ancient treasures in this country, the fossils have been neglected so far. I want to know whether the fossil finds are registered with any institution in this country—with the Anthropological Survey of India or any university or any other agency of Government or not. Secondly, as in the case of social sciences where foreign scholars who are doing research are required to register themselves with the Council of Social Sciences of the Government. I want to know whether foreign scholars doing research in fossils are registered with any agency of the Government. I also want to know whether Government is going to make any enquiry into the fossil finds which are there, about the extent of fossils in the country etc., and if so, what steps the Government propose to take.

PROF. S. NURUL HASAN: As far as the registration of fossils is concerned, it is the normal practice in

[Prof. S. Nurul Hasan]

any excavation or field work in archaeology or anthropology that whatever materials or objects are found are immediately registered in a register which the field team always maintains, giving details like the place from which it has been found and certain other technical details. The hon. Member asked how I could make a definite statement that nothing has gone out. May I, with your permission, read out one sentence from the statement, which reads:

"Government has no information whether any fossils have been actually taken out of India."

I go by the information that has been given by the Vice-Chancellor and by the co-director who was collaborating with the American team in the work of exploration, and nobody can say that this Indian co-director was in any way in league with any foreign group. In fact, he has been very careful in ensuring that nothing of interest or of value to the expedition or exploration goes out. Therefore, in my opinion the question of making further enquiries does not arise. Until I have some specific information, it would not be proper for me to start any enquiry.

So far as foreign researchers are concerned, a procedure has been prescribed by the Government of India that whenever any foreign researcher comes the relevant academic authority is always consulted, and it is on the advice given by the proper academic authority that the Ministry of Education makes the recommendation that he should be given permission to come and make studies here.

I have already given the reply to the last point raised by my hon. friend that within the means available the universities and other institutions

have been supported and are being encouraged to undertake extensive survey and exploration of the fossils.

12.45 hrs.

RE. MOTIONS FOR ADJOURNMENT

ACUTE FOOD SHORTAGE IN MAHARASHTRA

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: All of you please sit down.

I have received two notices of the following adjournment motions. One is from S/Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee, S. M. Banerjee and Shyamnandan Mishra, and the motion is:

"To discuss the explosive situation arising out of the failure of the Central Government to maintain adequate supply of wheat and other foodgrains to the drought hit State of Maharashtra leading to serious food riots in many cities.

The other is from Shri Madhu Limaye and the motion is:

"The failure of the Centre to enforce the norms laid down in regard to declaration of famine and scarcity areas, and organisation of appropriate relief measures in Maharashtra, Bihar, Gujarat, Mysore, Rajasthan and other States resulting in wide-spread shortages of foodgrains, acute distress, hunger, discontent and shooting of unarmed people by the police such as was witnessed in Sinner in Maharashtra.

It is almost the same....(Interruptions).