

fire arms which are museum pieces not included in the Antiques Act?

SHRI NIHAR RANJAN LASKAR: I have already stated while answering the main questions which are the guns which have listed as prohibited. This is under the executive instructions. This is not in the Act or rules. This was clarified earlier. It has not been totally prohibited to issue such guns also to the individuals but we have only stated that total care will be taken while issuing this type of weapons to the individuals. There may be one or two instances where this has been issued.

DR. KRUPASINDHU BHOI: What is the criterion for that? Please give some criterion.

SHRI C.P.N. SINGH: I would like to ask categorically from the Hon. Minister whether he is aware that for 410-bore gun or the 280 Ross Rifle, if there is any manufacture of the ammunition any more?

If the manufacturers are not making the ammunition for those two particular guns and if according to the Indian Arms Act, you can only have the weapon known as antique if you drill a hole in the barrel, will this not be a national loss. Because once this happens, that gun loses its value. What is going to happen is these guns are going to be smuggled out. For the guns in India, we will have to have this hole in the barrel for it to be declared as antiques. Is it not a national loss?

Will the Hon. Minister kindly consider whether, if the bullets are not manufactured, those guns will be permitted as antiques?

SHRI P.C. SETHI: While framing the rules, we will take the suggestion of the Hon. Member, into consideration.

Economic Development of North Eastern Region

*417. SHRI BISHNU PRASAD: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be

pleased to state:

(a) whether the Committee for the economic development of North Eastern Region met in New Delhi recently; and

(b) if so, the outcome thereof;

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI NIHAR RANJAN LASKAR): (a) Yes Sir.

(b) The important recommendations made to accelerate the pace of development in the north east are laid on the Table of the House.

Statement

RESOLUTION ON AGENDA ITEMS

Agenda Item No. 1

Development of Rail and road communication in the North—East

Resolution:

- (1) The BG line to Gauhati should be completed by March, 1984. No further slippage in time should be permitted.
- (2) The de-reservation proposals in forest land falling along the six new railway lines have not yet been fully cleared. The Minister of State for Agriculture stated that the case was to be submitted to him within July, 1983, and it would be finalised soon after.

Item No. 1 (b)

Progress of construction of National Highways

- (3) The need for improvement of National Highway 44 (Shillong—Jowai—Agartala) and National Highway 53 (Silchar to Bhadarpur) has been brought to the notice of the Committee during successive

meetings. Resolved that a Committee of Secretaries be constituted to lay down fund allocations and priorities for each N.H. for the balance period of the Sixth Plan and ensure adequate allocations for 1984-85 and the Seventh Plan.

Agenda Item No. 2

Scheme for promotion of small and medium Industries in the north-east

When Public Sector Enterprises like HMT etc. undertake expansion/opening of units they should also consider the possibility of locating these in the States/UTs of the region.

Agenda Item No. 3

Progress in investigation of Barak Dam Project and steps to accelerate completion of investigation

The final report regarding investigation for High Dam on the River Barak at Tipaimukh be expedited and a summary of the findings placed before the next meeting of the Committee. A chart indicating targetted dates for completion of investigation should also be placed before the next meeting.

Agenda Item No. 4

Progress of action on establishment of Institute of Medical Science in Shillong

The detailed progress of work and the phased programme of implementation should be indicated to the next Committee meeting alongwith the draft project report.

Agenda Item No. 5

Review of action taken on construction of rail-cum-road bridge at Jogighopa and the railway line between Panchratna and Gauhati

The schedule of work for construction of rail-cum-road bridge at

Jogighopa and the railway line between Panchratna and Gauhati should be placed before the next meeting and the target date for completion of the project report be indicated. Model studies should be completed by December 1983 and preliminary work at site should also start.

Agenda Item No. 6

Review of progress in functioning of paper mills at Cachar, Nowgong and Tuli

Tuli Paper Project has gone into production. The catchment area for raw-material should be fully protected and proper schemes for regeneration of bamboo implemented. For Cachar and Nowgong Paper Mills work should be expedited and target dates indicated for completion within a month. For transportation of coal HPC will have to provide funds for a coal dump at Nowgong.

Agenda Item No. 8

Review of important Central and Centrally sponsore schemes-continuing and now with targetted dates for completion Department of Food

The Department of Food should expedite setting up of Pineapple Juice Concentrate Plant at Silchar which has not yet got off the ground. They should report action to the Committee within one month.

Agenda Item No. 11

Opening of a branch of the Unit Trust of India for the region at Gauhati

Resolved that the Ministry of Finance should consider this proposal and report follow-up action in this regard to the next meeting.

*Agenda Item No. 12***Opening of a branch of Export Credit Guarantee Corporation of India for the Region at Gauhati**

At present the office of the Export Credit Guarantee Corporation of India is in Calcutta. It has been the policy of the Government to shift all such offices, functioning for the North East Region into the region itself. Resolved that the Ministry of Commerce will consider the proposal for a branch office for the region at Gauhati and the action taken reported to the next meeting of the Committee.

*Agenda Item No. 13***Finalisation of special deputation terms for the staff of North Eastern Police Academy**

This is a prestigious institution for the north east. The proposal for deputation terms should be finally cleared within a month from now. Keeping in view the need to give rent free accommodation, ration allowance/other allowances as being drawn by the deputationists in their parent Departments as also a certain quantum of instructional allowance as a special incentive over and above 20% deputation allowance which is normally permissible.

*Agenda Item No. 16***Review of food supplies and movement of wagons as also transport subsidy for food supply beyond FCI Centres**

The report of the Working Group set up in the Planning Commission to recommend measures for strengthening civil supplies system in the north east should be presented before the next meeting of the Committee of Ministers.

*Agenda Item No. 18***Upgradation of mental Hospital Tezpur and Baruah Cancer Institute**

Resolved that the Planning Commission should expedite sanction for the scheme for the development of mental hospital, Tezpur and Dr. B. Baruah Cancer Institute, Gauhati, since both these schemes have already been approved by the North Eastern Council and the Ministry of Health and budget allocation has also been kept in the North Eastern Council Plan.

Agenda item No. 7, 10, 14, 15, 17 and 19 may be considered by the Official-Level Committee and their recommendations placed before the next meeting of the Committee of Ministers.

SHRI BISHNU PRASAD : May I know from the hon. Minister how many meetings of this Committee were held so far and how many major recommendations of this Committee were implemented by different Ministries of the Government of India ?

SHRI NIHAR RANJAN LASKAR : Sir, as my hon. friend and the hon. House know, it was at the initiative of our Prime Minister that this Committee of Ministers for the development of the North-Eastern Region was constituted in the year 1980. Since then we have had 8 meetings so far. I can just illustrate a few of the measures we have taken.

1. Tezpur Bridge over Brahmaputra—we are making good progress. We are monitoring the progress also ?
2. The broadgauge line from Bongaigaon to Gauhati should be completed by March 1984. This decision was also taken.
3. Another decision we have taken is about the broadgauge line to

- Dibrugarh. It is under investigation.
4. Kopili's first phase will be commissioned within a month. The Project is to be fully completed by December, 1984.
 5. Six new railway lines connecting the six States/U.Ts with Assam is in progress. We are monitoring the progress. We are trying to build them according to schedule. There are different date schedule.
 6. More national highways and roads of economic importance will also come up. We have now cleared Jogigopa rail-cum-road bridge and a further extension of the line upto Garao Hills is also coming up. This Committee is also monitoring it.
 7. T.V. network in N.E. region is also coming up.
 8. Storage capacity of FCI is being increased in all units.
 9. In the N.E. area, paper mills at Cachar-Nowgong and Tuli are being expedited.
 10. Regional Institute of Medical Sciences is being established at Shillong. This is the only institute catering to the needs of these areas. Some progress has been made. We are also monitoring this.

These are vary important development schemes which this Committee is pursuing and seeing that they are completed on due time.

SHRI BISHNU PRASAD : My question is this. We are grateful to the Government of India, particularly to our Madam, Prime Minister, for taking the initiative for the development of the North-Eastern Region. Look at the pace of progress, particularly, the irrigation

schemes of the North-Eastern region. I may mention about the Subansari and Dihang projects the studies of which were undertaken 10 years back are have been completed and they are in the stages of implementation.

May I know from him when actual execution work will start of these two projects ?

SHRI NIHAR RANJAN LASKAR : My hon. friend will be glad to know that we are involving the respective Chief Ministers of the different U.Ts in our discussions. In the last three meetings they were attending here in Delhi. With their cooperation we hope to take up all the other schemes. Unfortunately, we have not discussed this at the last meeting. We are likely th discuss this at the next meeting.

SHRI TARUN GOGOI : May I know from the hon. Minister one thing ? Lack of adequate number of trained persons and adequate number of entrepreneurships are the main constraints in the N.E. region. May I know from him as to what steps have been taken in this direction so that adequate number of trained people and adequate number of entrepreneurs may be created ?

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI P. C. SETHI) : In the current plan period also now we have increased the allocation for north-eastern region and Assam in order to provide greater opportunities for employment.

SHRI TARUN GOGOI : I am not talking about employment, I want to know about the training of sufficient number of people so that adequate number of entrepreneurship can be created. He has not replied to that.

PROF. N.G. RANGA : How much money has been sanctioned for the implementation of these plans and how much money has already been spent out of this? Is there any sort of monitoring done from month to month or year by year, con-

tinuously, to see that these schemes are really expedited and completed in time ?

SHRI P.C. SETHI : Monitoring is there. As far as the total money allocated and the money spent is concerned I would certainly collect the information and pass it on to the hon. Member.

SHRI AJOY BISWAS : I wish to point out to the hon. Minister that in regard to the development of the north-eastern region, already eight meetings have been held and I am sorry to say that not a single item has been taken up for development in Tripura. The Tripura Government has already sent up a proposal for setting up of a paper mill and for the construction of railway line from Dharmanagato to Agartala. I want to know from the Minister why these items were not taken up in the earlier meeting. Already eight meetings have been held. I want to know why even a single item relating to development in Tripura has not been taken up by the committee ; I want to know when it will be taken up.

SHRI NIHAR RANJAN LASKAR : Somehow or other the Chief Minister of Tripura could not attend the last meeting. But, it is not correct to say that nothing has been done for Tripura. Regarding the National Highway which is going to Tripura via Shillong and all that we have taken steps to see that all the weak bridges are strengthened. Necessary steps have been taken in this respect. Regarding the paper mill it was not in the Agenda and we have not discussed it.

Removal of the Statue of poet Kamoish from Goa

*418. **PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE :** Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that there is a grave discontent among freedom fighters in Goa on the failure of the Government to remove the statue of the Portuguese poet Kamoish from Goa in response to the patriotic aspirations of the people ;

(b) if so, whether it is a fact that the Chief Minister of Goa had assured in Goa Assembly that peoples' strong feelings on this matter would be conveyed to the Centre ;

(c) if so, whether Centre has received any communication from Government of Goa in this regard ; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI NIHAR RANJAN LASKAR) : (a) The Government of Goa, Daman and Diu informed that there was a demand from local freedom fighters to remove the statue of Portuguese Poet, Luiz de Camoes which had been erected during the Portuguese regime.

(b) to (d) In the course of discussions in the Goa Assembly on a Calling Attention Motion regarding the damage caused to the statue by some explosive substance on the night of July 24, 1983, the Chief Minister of Goa, had assured that he would convey the feelings of the House to the Government of India. A formal reference on the subject has been received from the Government of Goa and the matter is under consideration.

PROF. MADHU DANAVATE : Sir, I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether it is not a fact that generally, as far as the reaction to a litterateur or a poet is concerned, it is one of universal appreciation. But in spite of this general proposition, since this freedom fighters in Goa have been agitating for the removal of the statue of Luiz de Camoes which had been created during the Portuguese regime, has the Minister tried to find out why there is such a strong feeling and whether in the writings and campaigns of this poet there was anything that was detrimental or derogatory of the freedom movement in Goa ? Is there something within your knowledge ? If so, will you kindly share your knowledge with the House ?