

UDC grade to Assistant's grade on long-term basis according to the Department of Personnel O.M. No. F. 13/26/82-Estt. P.I. dated 8th February, 1983;

(b) if so, the number thereof;

(c) the number of Assistants who have been denied the benefit of option on their promotion from UDC grade to the Assistants' grade on long term basis in the Ministry of Home Affairs and Department of Personnel; and

(d) the reasons for not giving the same benefit to some of the Assistants of the M.H.A./Deptt. of Personnel and Training ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI RAM DULARI SINHA) :

(a) to (d) A few Upper Division Clerks of the Ministry of Home Affairs were given the benefit of option for the purposes of pay fixation in terms of Department of Personnel & A.R. (new Department of Personnel & Training) O.M.S. No. F. 7/1/80-Estt. P.I. dated 26.9.1981 and F-13/26/82-Estt. P.I. dated 8.12.1983 on their promotion on long term basis as Assistants. The Department of Personnel & Training later clarified that the benefit of option under the aforesaid memoranda can only be given on regular appointment after inclusion in the Select List and that appointment on long term basis cannot be treated as regular appointment. On receipt of this clarification the benefit of option which was being given to Assistants appointed on long term basis in this Ministry has been stopped and the past cases where the benefit has been extended are being reviewed.

Management of Thanjavur Art Gallery

3441. SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM: Will the Minister of CULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government propose to send original bronze idols from the Thanjavur Art Gallery and the temples

of Parithiyur, Azhipur; and Vadakalathur in Tamilnadu to Washington to display them at the Festival of India exhibition there;

(b) whether the management of the Thanjavur Art Gallery has objected to the proposal; and

(c) whether the purpose would not be served by sending replicas of these idols to Washington ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL AND TRAINING, ADMINISTRATIVE REFORMS AND PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSION AND IN THE DEPARTMENT OF CULTURE (SHRI K. P. SINGH DEO) : (a) The proposal is under consideration.

(b) The Thanjavur Art Gallery had objected initially. However, the Government of Tamilnadu reviewed the matter in consultation with all concerned including the Thanjavur Art Gallery and accorded permission to send the bronzes.

(c) No, Sir. Museums of international repute would not show replicas of such bronzes at an important exhibition.

Busting of Pak Espionage network in J&K

3442. SHRI C. MADHAV REDDI Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the newsitem appearing in the Hindustan Times dated the 4 April, 1985 wherein it has been stated that police have busted a Pak espionage network with the arrest of four Pak Nationals from Samaba border area of Jammu and Kashmir alongwith smuggled goods and documents;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) action taken by Government in the matter ?