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ESTIMATES COMMITTEE  
(1968-69)

CHAIRMAN

Shri P. Venkatasubbaiah

MEMBERS

2. Shri B. Anjanappa
3. Shri R. S. Arumugam
4. Shri Panna Lal Barupal
5. Shri Onkar Lal Berwa
6. Shri Tridib Chaudhuri
7. Shri Ganesh Ghosh
8. Shri Hardayal Devgun
9. Shri Y. Gadilingana Goud
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18. Shri Yamuna Prasad Mandal
19. Shri Bibhuti Mishra
20. Shri F. H. Mohsin
21. Shri Kartik Oraon
22. Shri Chintamani Panigrahi
23. Shri Gajraj Singh Rao
24. Shri Erasmo de Sequeira
25. Shrimati Jayaben Shah
26. Shri Shantilal Shah

27. Shri Rajdeo Singh
28. Shri Arangil Sreedharan
29. Shri K. Subravelu
30. Shri Tula Ram

SECRETARIAT .

Shri B. K. Mukherjee—*Deputy Secretary.*

Shri K. D. Chatterjee—*Under Secretary.*

STUDY GROUP 'F' OF THE ESTIMATES COMMITTEE  
(1968-69)

CONVENER

Shri S. Kandappan

MEMBERS

2. Shri B. Anjanappa
3. Shri Tridib Chaudhuri
4. Shri Ganesh Ghosh
5. Shri Y. Gadilingana Goud
6. Shri J. M. Imam
7. Shri K. Lakkappa
8. Shri Yamuna Prasad Mandal
9. Shri F. H. Mohsin
10. Shri Gajraj Singh Rao
11. Shrimati Jayaben Shah
12. Shri Shantilal Shah
13. Shri K. Subravelu
14. Shri Tula Ram



## INTRODUCTION

I, the Chairman of the Estimates Committee, having been authorised by the Committee, present this Sixty-Sixth Report of the Estimates Committee on the action taken by Government on the recommendations contained in the Fifth Report of the Estimates Committee (Fourth Lok Sabha) on the Ministry of Education—(i) Indian Museum, Calcutta and (ii) Victoria Memorial Hall Museum, Calcutta.

The Fifth Report of the Estimates Committee was presented to the Lok Sabha on the 5th July, 1967. Government furnished their replies indicating the action taken on the recommendations contained in the Report on the 21st December, 1967, 27th December, 1967 and 6th February, 1968. Further information was called for in respect of six recommendations which was furnished by the Ministry on the 19th October, 1968.

The draft Report was adopted by the Committee on the 24th December, 1968.

The Report has been divided into the following chapters:—

I. Report

II. Recommendations that have been accepted by Government

III. Recommendations which the Committee do not desire to pursue in view of the Government's reply.

An analysis of the action taken by Government on the recommendations contained in the Fifth Report (Fourth Lok Sabha) of the Estimates Committee is given in Appendix III. It would be observed therefrom that out of 38 recommendations made in the Report, 30 recommendations i.e. 79 per cent have been accepted by the Government and the Committee do not desire to pursue 8 recommendations i.e. 21 per cent in view of Government's replies.

NEW DELHI;  
8th January, 1969  
18th Pausa, 1890 (Saka)

P. VENKATASUBBAIAH,  
Chairman,  
Estimates Committee.

## CHAPTER I

### REPORT

The Estimates Committee are glad to observe that the recommendations contained in their Fifth Report (Fourth Lok Sabha) on the Ministry of Education—(i) Indian Museum, Calcutta and (ii) Victoria Memorial Hall Museum Calcutta; have been replied to by the Government in time and generally to the Committee's satisfaction.

## CHAPTER II

### RECOMMENDATIONS THAT HAVE BEEN ACCEPTED BY GOVERNMENT

#### Recommendation (Serial No. 2) Para 9

(i) *In view of the important role that the Indian Museum has to play for promoting cultural and educational interests of its users, the Committee feel that the Board of Trustees should have a larger representation of educationists, historians, museologists and social scientists. The Committee recommend that the Board should be suitably reconstituted if necessary by amending the Indian Museum Act.*

(ii) *The Committee further suggest that the feasibility of accepting donations from the public for the purpose of enriching the collections of the Museum may be explored. The responsibility also lies on the non-official members of the Board to attract private monetary and/or art donations from philanthropists, art connoisseurs and private donors.*

#### REPLY OF GOVERNMENT

(i) Noted. The views of the Committee have been noted and will be borne in mind when it is decided to amend the Indian Museum Act.

(ii) The suggestion of the Committee has been noted.

[Ministry of Education O.M. No. F. 11-24/67-CAI(5) dated the 27th December 1967.]

#### Recommendation (Serial No. 4) Para No. 11

*The Committee feel that from the point of view of efficient administration and also for the proper development of the Indian Museum, all the departments, units and galleries should be under the same administration. The Government also seem to have realised this when they decided to transfer Art, Archaeology and Anthropology Galleries to the Museum but they retained the Geological, Zoological and Botanical Galleries under the respective surveys. The Committee feel that this piece-meal integration and dual control has hampered the proper development of the Indian Museum resulting in lack of coordination. The Committee would urge that early steps be taken to remedy the situation.*

## REPLY OF GOVERNMENT

Noted. Government have already decided in principle that all the departments, units and galleries should be under the same administration and as a first step in this direction have decided to integrate Archaeological and Anthropological Galleries. The integration of the remaining galleries with the Museum will be effected gradually.

[Ministry of Education O.M. No. F. 11-24/67-CAI(5) dated the 27th December 1967.]

**Recommendation (Serial No. 5) Para No. 12**

Committee do not feel satisfied with the explanation given by the Ministry that the relevant staff could not be transferred as they were doing other work also in addition to looking to the galleries transferred. The Committee feel that the Government should have transferred a portion of the staff when a big load of their work was transferred to the Indian Museum. They also feel that employment of a large number of staff on daily wage basis is more expensive and not very conducive to the efficient working of the Museum. In order to see that the Museum may initiate development programmes on a planned basis the Committee suggest that after thoroughly examining the staff requirements of the Museum, Government should take immediate steps to meet the demands of the Museum either by transferring some staff from the surveys or by recruiting new staff.

## REPLY OF GOVERNMENT

The recommendation has been noted and the Board of Trustees have appointed a Sub-Committee to examine the staff requirements of the Museum and to submit a report thereon to the Board. Government is also taking steps to have the staff requirements of the Museum assessed by Staff Inspection Unit of the Ministry of Finance.

[Ministry of Education O.M. No. F. 11-24/67-CAI(5) dated the 27th December 1967.]

**Recommendation (Serial No. 6) Para 13**

The Committee attach great importance to the development of the Anthropological Gallery both on its ethnological and physical sides. They are unhappy to observe that in the Anthropological Galleries the ethnological exhibits predominate and that no effective steps have been taken by the Government for the transference

of the original exhibits from the Anthropological Survey to the Indian Museum. The Committee think the Gallery as it is in the Indian Museum has no justification of being called Anthropological. The Committee are also unhappy that the Indian Museum does not have any pre-historic human fossils even though it is oldest Museum in the country. The Committee would urge that efforts should be made to develop the physical anthropology unit in the Indian Museum and for that endeavour should also be made to acquire the original fossils of pre-historic human beings and other relevant objects or at least their replicas for display in the Indian Museum.

#### REPLY OF GOVERNMENT

\*Noted. Steps have already been taken to set up a Gallery for physical anthropology. The accomplishment of this work, however, depend on the availability of funds.

[Ministry of Education O.M. No. F. 11-24/67-CAI(5) dated the 27th December 1967.]

#### Recommendation (Serial No. 7) Para No. 14

(i) The Committee think that a Museum like the Indian Museum cannot serve its purpose without an adequate number of properly trained Guide Lecturers. The Committee suggest that the need of the Indian Museum, so far as Guide Lecturers are concerned, may be gone into by the Ministry of Education at an early date and, necessary number of properly trained Guide Lecturers be provided.

(ii) As the Museum has to cater to all types of visitors with a preponderance of semi-literate or illiterate visitors, the Committee suggest that there should be a reorientation in the outlook of the Guide Lecturers so that they could educate even the uninformed about the richness of country's hoary past as enshrined in the galleries of the Museum. It should be the responsibility of the Guide Lecturers to explain things to the uneducated in a language that can be understood by a layman. As for the literate or educated visitors, the guidance should be on a higher plane so that they could react aesthetically and intelligently upon the subjects that they see.

#### REPLY OF GOVERNMENT

(i) The recommendation of the Committee has been noted. This question will also be considered by the Sub-Committee appointed by the Board as well as by the S.I.U.

(ii) The method suggested is being followed in the Museum by the Guide Lecturers.

[Ministry of Education O.M. No. F. 11-24/67-CAI(5) dated the 27th December, 1967.]

#### **Recommendation (Serial No. 8) Para No. 15**

*The Committee cannot over-emphasise the importance of proper maintenance of the Museum building which is more than one hundred and fifty years old. The building should be adequately protected against leakage and dampness so that the costly materials housed in the building are not affected. The Committee suggest that the Central Public Works Department may carry out a technical survey about the condition of the Museum building so that a phased programme for repairs and renovation could be drawn up in the light of the findings. The Committee hope that Government will ensure that the essential and inescapable repairs works are not held up, due to lack of funds, as this may lead to damage of the valuable exhibits in the Museum.*

#### **REPLY OF GOVERNMENT**

The recommendation of the Committee has been noted and the Board of Trustees of the Museum has been asked to approach the C.P.W.D. for carrying out a technical survey about the condition of the Museum building.

[Ministry of Education O.M. No. F. 11-24/67-CAI(5) dated the 27th December, 1967.]

#### **Recommendation (Serial No. 9) Para No. 16**

*The Committee realise the difficulties experienced by the Indian Museum due to lack of adequate accommodation. The Committee feel that some other suitable accommodation should have been requisitioned by the Civil Defence Organisation. The Committee would urge that the portion of the building occupied by the Civil Defence Organisation should be released and handed over to the Museum for its own use as early as possible.*

*The Committee would also urge the vacation of the portions of the building which are occupied by different surveys at an early date. Even this may not be adequate for proper arrangements and display of the exhibits. So the Committee suggest that the Government may make a proper study of the question of accommodation for the Museum.*

## REPLY OF GOVERNMENT

Noted. The Board of Trustees has already taken up the matter with the Government of West Bengal. The Board have also approached the Anthropological and Zoological Surveys of India to vacate the space occupied by them in the main Museum building. Efforts will be made at higher levels, if necessary, to get the space vacated by the Civil Defence Organisation from Anthropological and Zoological Surveys of India.

[Ministry of Education O.M. No. F. 11-24/67-CAI(5) dated the 27th December, 1967.]

## Recommendation (Serial No. 10) Para No. 17

*The Committee need hardly stress the desirability of conducting stock-taking of the antiquities regularly so as to avoid loss or pilferage of rare exhibits. They also feel that security arrangements should be tightened to avoid thefts etc.*

## REPLY OF GOVERNMENT

The recommendation has been noted. Proper recording and photographing of objects is in progress and steps are also being taken to tighten security arrangements.

[Ministry of Education O.M. No. F. 11-24/67-CAI(5) dated the 27th December, 1967.]

## Recommendation (Serial No. 11) Para No. 18

*The Committee regret to note that no acquisition were made by the Indian Museum during the year 1961-62. The Committee need hardly emphasise that the acquisition of art objects is one of the major functions of a Museum and unless this function is performed properly and adequately, the development of the Museum is likely to be retarded. The Committee hope that the Indian Museum will pay due attention in this direction in future. The Committee also suggest that the Indian Museum should strive to establish exchange relations with other museums in the country as well as abroad.*

## REPLY OF GOVERNMENT

The recommendation has been noted and efforts will be made to allocate larger funds for acquisition of art objects within the available funds.

[Ministry of Education O.M. No. F. 11-24/67-CAI(5) dated the 27th December, 1967.]

# FURTHER INFORMATION CALLED FOR BY THE COMMITTEE

*Please indicate the allocation of funds for acquisition of art objects during 1967-68 and 1968-69.*

[LSS O.M. No. 5|6(2)|EC.II|67 dated the 26th August, 1968.]

## REPLY OF GOVERNMENT

|                         | <u>BE. 1967-68</u> | <u>BE. 1967-68</u> | <u>BE. 1968-69</u> |
|-------------------------|--------------------|--------------------|--------------------|
| Purchase of art objects | Rs. 10,000         | Rs. 10,000         | Rs. 60,000         |

[Ministry of Education O.M. No. F. 11-36|68-CAI (5) dated the 19th October, 1968.]

## Recommendation (Serial No. 13) Para No. 21

(i) *The Committee are glad to note the steps taken by the Indian Museum for the improvement of labelling and method of display. The Committee need hardly stress that continuous efforts should be made to effect further improvements in this direction. In the matter of presentation, however, the Committee would like to suggest the use of simple but effective media of display, and use of indigenous and less costly materials.*

(ii) *The Committee also suggest that the working of the Presentation Unit of the Indian Museum vis-a-vis its staff strength should be gone into with a view to see whether the staff strength is adequate to handle the work smoothly and efficiently.*

## REPLY OF GOVERNMENT

(i & ii) *The work of labelling and re-arrangement for improved display is in progress. The requirements of the staff in the presentation Unit of the Museum as also in the other Units of the Museum will be considered by the Sub-Committee of the Board and by S.I.U.*

[Ministry of Education O.M. No. F. 11-24|67-CAI (5) dated the 27th December, 1967.]

## Recommendation (Serial No. 14) Para No. 22

*In view of the fact that the Indian Museum is the oldest Museum in the country with an extensive collection of objects like bronzes, manuscripts, coins, textiles, paintings, etc. which require preservation and chemical treatment, the Committee feel that the scheme of setting up a full-fledged Chemical Section in the Museum should have been processed with a sense of urgency. The Committee note that although the Chemical Unit has started functioning since May, 1966, it is still poorly equipped in regard to both equipments and*

staff. The Committee need hardly stress that the Conservation Laboratory of the Indian Museum should be fully equipped and fully staffed as early as possible so that it can look after the varied and enormous collections of the Museum as also of the Victoria Memorial Hall Museum properly. The Committee also suggest that efforts should be made to get aid from UNESCO or any other international agency in this regard.

They further suggest that the Conservation Laboratory of the Indian Museum should also render assistance to the other important museums in Calcutta, e.g., Victoria Memorial Hall Museum, Asiatic Society, Austosh Museum etc.

#### REPLY OF GOVERNMENT

The recommendation has been noted and a scheme has been drawn up on the basis of the report of Shri T. R. Gairola of the National Museum, New Delhi. The Scheme is under consideration of the Board at present.

[Ministry of Education O.M. No. F. 11-24|67-CAI(5) dated the 27th December, 1967.]

#### FURTHER INFORMATION CALLED FOR BY THE COMMITTEE

Please intimate the decision taken by the Board on the scheme drawn up on the basis of the report of Shri T. R. Gairola of the National Museum, New Delhi.

[LSS O.M. No. 5|6(2)|EC.II|67 dated the 26th August 1968.]

#### REPLY OF GOVERNMENT

The Board of Trustees, Indian Museum, Calcutta at its meeting held on the 4th January 1968 has passed the following resolution:—

“Resolved that the scheme be approved and forwarded to the Ministry with the request for funds”.

As it is not possible to enhance substantially the development expenditure of the Government of India on Non-Plan schemes, the above scheme has been included in this Ministry's Fourth Five Year Plan proposals which are at present under consideration of the Planning Commission. The amount being sought is Rs. 2 lakhs, during the coming plan period.

[Ministry of Education O.M. No. F. 11-36|68-CAI(5) dated 19th October, 1968.]

**Recommendation (Serial No. 15) Para No. 23**

The Committee need hardly stress that "Every Museum must develop an appropriate programme for education of the community it serves". They are glad to note the educational programme started by the Indian Museum in this regard. They, however, feel that educational programmes should be further intensified and strengthened. The Committee think there is considerable scope for holding features, exhibitions, symposia and seminars in collaboration with the universities and museums in the eastern region.

**REPLY OF GOVERNMENT**

Noted. Efforts are being made to intensify and strengthen the educational programmes started in the Museum.

[Ministry of Education O.M. No. F. 11-24|67-CAI (5) dated the 27th December, 1967].

**Recommendation (Serial No. 16) Para No. 24**

The Committee are glad to note that there is liaison with the Calcutta University and with other educational institutions at Calcutta in regard to the facilities for research and education in the Indian Museum. They, however, feel that it would be desirable to draw a coordinated programme for research in consultation with the Victoria Memorial Hall Museum and the Asutosh Museum of the Calcutta University. Efforts should continue to be made to establish regular contacts with other universities situated in the Eastern Zone.

**REPLY OF GOVERNMENT**

The recommendation has been noted for implementation as far as practicable.

[Ministry of Education O.M. No. F.11-24|67-CAI (5), Dated the 27th December, 1967].

**Recommendation (Serial No. 17) Para No. 25**

The Committee feel that the modelling Department of the Indian Museum can go a long way in establishing better contacts between the Indian Museum on the one hand and colleges and schools on the other, as many educational institutions would like to have these casts and moulds which have great educative value. Furthermore, this Department can help in augmenting the revenues of the Indian Museum by sale of plaster casts, wax-moulds, etc. The Committee therefore suggest that the Ministry of Education may review the needs for staff vis-a-vis the workload of the Department.

## REPLY OF GOVERNMENT

The recommendation has been noted. The needs for staff by the Modelling Department will also be considered by the Sub-Committee of the Board appointed for the purpose and the S.I.U.

[Ministry of Education O.M. No. F.11-24/67-CAI (5), Dated the 27th December, 1967].

## Recommendation (Serial No.18) Para No. 28

The Committee commend the steps taken to publicise the activities of the Indian Museum through press releases, radio broadcasts, documentaries, radio talks, etc. They also note that Indian Museum has taken part in exhibitions of cultural interest in India and abroad. The Committee need hardly point out that it is mainly through the publications like news-letters, bulletins, monographs, bibliographies, inexpensive prints, etc. that the Museum could be better known to a large public not only within the country but also outside its limits. The Committee would urge that a phased programme of bringing out essential publications by Indian Museum as well as other Central Government Museums should be drawn up and strictly adhered to.

In view of the extensive publications and publicity activities undertaken by the Museum, the Committee suggest that the question of strengthening the Publicity Publication Unit in the Indian Museum may be considered. The Committee also recommend that concerted efforts should be made to promote the sales of the publications brought out by the Indian Museum in India as well as abroad. The Committee would also like to stress that the Publication Unit should, as far as possible, be self-supporting and, if necessary, special grants should be made to make it purposeful.

## REPLY OF GOVERNMENT

The views of the Committee have been noted. The work of bringing out publications by the Museum is continued on the basis of a phased programme as approved by the Board. All possible efforts are being made to promote sale of publications and its gradual increase. Efforts are also being made to allocate more funds for publication programme within the available funds.

[Ministry of Education O.M. No. F.11-24/67-CAI (5), Dated the 27th December, 1967].

## Recommendation (Serial No. 20) Para No. 29

The Committee feel that proper day to day record of the number of visitors to the Indian Museum should be kept by the Museum. They also feel that there should be a uniform practice for admission

of visitors to all the Central Government Museums. In this connection the Committee note that the Victoria Memorial Hall Museum charges an admission fee of 25 paise for adults and 12 paise for children below the age of 7 years all working days except Friday when double fee is charged. The Committee suggest that the feasibility of introducing a similar scale of admission in the Indian Museum and all other museums may be considered by Government.

The Committee also desire that a complaint or suggestion book should be kept at the Museum where the visitors could register their views and impressions about the Museum.

#### REPLY OF GOVERNMENT

The recommendation of the Committee has been noted and will be considered in the case of museums functioning as autonomous bodies in consultation with the various Boards and Trustees or Management concerned.

[Ministry of Education O.M. No. F.11-24'67-CAI (5), Dated the 27th December, 1967].

#### Recommendation (Serial No. 21) Para No. 31

The Committee find that there is a wide gap between the budgetary proposals submitted by the Indian Museum and the amounts sanctioned by the Central Government during the last so many years. Although the Committee realise that the amounts have to be sanctioned by the Central Government subject to the over-all financial resources, they feel that every care should be taken by Government to see that the essential items of work are not held up due to paucity of funds. The Committee would like to stress that the Indian Museum, apart from being the oldest, is the biggest multipurpose museum in the country with vast and varied collection of materials, rare manuscripts and records. The Committee feel that this Museum deserves to be properly developed so that it can take its rightful place as the National Museum for the Eastern Zone. In the opinion of the Committee there should not be much disparities in financial aid from the Central Government between this Museum and the National Museum at New Delhi.

#### REPLY OF GOVERNMENT

The recommendation has been noted. As regards the disparity in the allocation of funds between this Museum and the National Museum at New Delhi, attention is invited to Government's reply

to the recommendation of the Estimates Committee at Serial No. 4 under the National Museum, New Delhi.

[Ministry of Education O.M. No. F. 11-24/67-CAI (5), Dated the 27th December, 1967].

### Recommendation (Serial No. 22) Para No. 32

The Committee realise that the question of providing funds in the Fourth Five Year Plan so far as the Indian Museum is concerned, has to be considered in a wider perspective, i.e. provision of funds for the development of other Museums and the over-all finances available. However, the Committee are unhappy to note that adequate attention has not been paid towards the development of those Museums in the country which can claim the status of National Museums in their respective regions. The Committee feel that for allocating funds to the various Museums, there should be a system of priorities and funds should be provided to those sections first which can be made self-supporting and can augment the revenues of the Museums. In the opinion of the Committee the Modelling, Photography and the Publication Units could be suitably developed so that they could bring in revenues by the sale of their products. Next in order of priority comes the Chemical Unit which is so essential for conservation and preservation of invaluable and rare objects.

The Committee suggest that the question of provision of funds for the developmental works of the Museums should be gone into in all its aspects by Government in consultation with the Planning Commission and an order of priorities laid down for the development programmes to be undertaken by the Museums in future.

### REPLY OF GOVERNMENT

The views of the Committee have been noted. In this connection attention is invited to Government's reply to the recommendation of the Estimates Committee at Serial No. 4 under National Museum.

[Ministry of Education O.M. No. F. 11.24/67-CAI (5) dated the 27th December 1967].

### FURTHER INFORMATION CALLED FOR BY THE COMMITTEE

Please intimate the reactions of the Government to the recommendations regarding examination of development works of the Museums in all its aspects in consultation with the Planning Commission and for laying down the order of priorities.

[L. S. O. M. No 5/6(2) | E. CII/67 dated the 26th August 1968].

## REPLY OF GOVERNMENT

For the development and reorganisation of the Central Museums namely National Museum, National Gallery of Modern Art, Nehru Memorial Museum and Library, Salar Jung Museum, Indian Museum and Victoria Memorial Hall during the Fourth Five Year Plan starting from 1969-70, a sum of Rs. 369.5 lakhs will be required as per detailed schemes already sent to the Planning Commission. The schemes for each Museum are arranged in the order of *inter se* priority indicated against each scheme.

[Ministry of Education O.M. No. F. 11-36/68-CAI(5) dated the 19th October, 1968.]

## Recommendation (Serial No. 23) Para No. 33

*The Committee are distressed to note that during the last five years; the Indian Museum has not incurred any expenditure under the heads Acquisition, Preservation, Publications and Research and even the expenditure incurred on Presentation during 1965-66 has been rather insignificant. The Committee are particularly unhappy that the bulk of the expenditure is being incurred on Administration. The Committees cannot too strongly emphasise the need for the balanced development of the Museum under different heads like Acquisition, Preservation, Presentation, etc.*

## REPLY OF GOVERNMENT

The recommendation of the Committee has been noted and efforts will be made to allocate larger funds to the Indian Museum for acquisition, preservation, publication and research.

[Ministry of Education O.M. No. F. 11-24/67-CAI(5) dated the 27th December, 1967].

## Recommendation (Serial No. 24) (vi) Para No. 38 (vi)

*The Committee attach importance to the preservation of valuable manuscripts which are kept in Asiatic Society. Arrangements should therefore be made to utilise the services of the UNESCO Unit, Calcutta, for micro-filming and preservation of the documents that are in the custody of the Society. The conservation work of the Society also requires closer attention, and arrangements may be made in consultation with the Indian Museum, Calcutta and the Asiatic Society for renovating such of the manuscripts as stand in need of restoration. There should be close collaboration between the Indian Museum, Cal-*

cutta and the Asiatic Society on the technical, professional and academic level. The Committee hope that the Asiatic Society on its part will take energetic steps to prepare a comprehensive catalogue of all the manuscripts and other articles which it has in its possession.

#### REPLY OF GOVERNMENT

Noted. The Agencies mentioned will be requested to render such assistance as is feasible.

[Ministry of Education O.M. No. F. 32-5/67-CAI(3) dated 23.1.1968]

#### Recommendation (Serial No. 25) Para No. 42

The Committee noted that the Preamble to the Victoria Memorial Act, 1903 (as amended by Act 58 of 1960) makes no mention about the objectives of the Museum. The general public associates the Museum with the name of Queen Victoria whose memory it perpetuates but it has no vivid idea about the collections or the functions of the Museum. The Committee hope that an early opportunity would be taken to define its basic objectives by a Government Resolution so that the Museum may be developed as a Modern Historical Museum of the country. The Committee also suggest that the activities of the Museum should be widely publicised.

#### REPLY OF GOVERNMENT

Government have noted the recommendation of the Committee.

[Ministry of Education O.M. No. F. 12-8/67-CAI(5) dated the 21st December, 1967].

#### Recommendation (Serial No. 26) Para No. 43

The Committee regret that even after 19 years of independence the Victoria Memorial Hall Museum is still continuing to present only one side of the shield, namely, the British side and almost nothing substantial has been done to exhibit the other side i.e. the Indian side. In cultural, religious, political, journalistic and literary fields, eminent Indians have played a significant role from the days of the East India Company. The Committee feel that the Government should immediately take steps to make the Victoria Memorial Hall Museum a well-balanced institution containing exhibits relating to modern Indian history. In this connection, the Committee also suggest that the Victoria Memorial Hall Museum should endeavour to collect the manuscripts and other exhibits connected with the political and cultural renaissance movement

with particular reference to the regions in the Eastern Zone. The Agrarian movement against the Indigo planters of Bengal and Bihar, which might be called a turning point in the political movement in India, should have received some attention.

#### REPLY OF GOVERNMENT

Government have noted the recommendation. Manuscripts and other exhibits connected with the cultural renaissance and the freedom movement etc. will be added as available.

[Ministry of Education O.M. No. F. 12-8/67-CAI(5) dated the 21st December, 1967].

#### Recommendation (Serial No. 28) Para No. 45

The Committee are unhappy to note that the Victoria Memorial Hall which is expected to be developed as a Museum of Modern History has not during the recent years acquired any exhibit of historical value so as to give the collections a diversity and richness that the Museum deserves. They also feel that the amount placed at the disposal of the Museum for the acquisition of exhibits is rather meagre. The Committee hope that Government would see to it that the development of the Museum is not retarded either due to lack of funds or initiative and eagerness to enrich the collections in different directions namely, historical, social, political and cultural.

#### REPLY OF GOVERNMENT

Noted. A 'National Leaders' gallery has recently been set up in the Museum and portraits of important leaders of the country who have taken part in the awakening of India in the 19th century and its struggle for political emancipation have been and are being displayed there. There is no lack of eagerness or initiative to enrich the collections of the Museum within the available resources. Personalities of the great leaders of this country having historical importance are difficult to acquire and the question of funds alone is not involved. Action is however being taken to explore the possibilities for acquiring documents relating to the struggle for independence on permanent loan to Victoria Memorial Hall.

[Ministry of Education O.M. No. F. 12-8/67-CAI(5) dated the 21st December, 1967].

#### Recommendation (Serial No. 29) Para No. 46

The Committee regret to note that no criteria have been laid down in regard to the selection of portraits of National leaders for

display in the Gallery of the Victoria Memorial Hall Museum. The Committee are also distressed that the Central Government has not deemed it necessary to give any directives to the authorities of the Victoria Memorial Hall Museum in regard to the selection of portraits of India's national leaders. The Committee would suggest that Government may immediately constitute a Selection Committee consisting of eminent historians, public men (including Members of Parliament), representatives of the Central and State Governments, with a view to draw up a list of national leaders whose portraits could find a place in the Gallery of the Victoria Memorial Hall Museum. The Selection Committee may also select the artists who should execute the work.

#### REPLY OF GOVERNMENT

Government accept the recommendation and will suggest to the Board of Trustees of the Hall to set up a Selection Committee for the purpose. It may, however, be stated that portraits of national leaders who have contributed to the social and political emancipation of India are being taken up one after another and are being painted by the most eminent portrait painters available. These portraits are being displayed in the Victoria Memorial Hall after taking into consideration the limited space available for their display.

[Ministry of Education, O.M. No. F. 12-8/67-CAI(5), dated the 21st December, 1967.]

#### Recommendation (Serial No. 30) Para No. 47

The Committee cannot over-emphasise the necessity of preparing standardised Stock Register so that stock taking could be done methodically to avoid possible pilferage or loss of exhibits. They would urge that adequate assistance be provided to the Museum in this regard.

#### REPLY OF GOVERNMENT

Government have noted the recommendation.

[Ministry of Education, O.M. No. F. 12-8/67-CAI(5), dated the 21st December, 1967.]

#### Recommendation (Serial No. 31) Para No. 48

(i) The Committee desire that immediate steps should be taken to effect improvements in the method of display in the Victoria Memorial Hall Museum and for this purpose the Government/Museum may seek the advice of some of the eminent museologists in the country. The Committee also feel that old labels on the

exhibits should be replaced by printed labels containing additional information as early as possible.

#### REPLY OF GOVERNMENT

(i) Government have noted the recommendation.

[Ministry of Education, O.M. No. F. 12-8/67-CAI (5), dated the 21st December, 1967.]

#### Recommendation (Serial No. 32) Para No. 49

While the Committee realise that for day-to-day conservation work there is a need for having a small conservation cell in the Victoria Memorial Hall Museum, they feel that for major conservation works, the Museum should utilise the facilities available at the Indian Museum, Calcutta. In fact, the Conservation Department of the Indian Museum should be able to render expert advice to the conservation staff of the Victoria Memorial Hall Museum and also train them in conservation techniques.

The Committee are unhappy to learn that valuable manuscripts of the Victoria Memorial Hall Museum are fading due to lack of proper conservation. The Committee would urge that immediate steps should be taken to renovate such manuscripts so that they may not be permanently lost to the Museum. The Committee would like to stress that though photostat copies are necessary, these cannot be expected to substitute to originals and as such, efforts should continue to be made for conservation of the original manuscripts.

#### REPLY OF GOVERNMENT

Government generally accept the recommendations of the Committee and will bear it in mind while considering the question of strengthening the Chemical Laboratory at the Indian Museum, Calcutta, as a Zonal Laboratory for the North East Region. The Victoria Memorial Hall has documents that have faded or are fading. For the convenience of scholars and for preservation of the text for posterity all the documents of this Museum have been microfilmed and photostat copies have been prepared. Ultra-violet readers are kept in the Museum with the assistance of which the faded documents can be read. To stop further fading and deterioration of the documents, proposals to replace the existing glass panes of the doors in the Document Gallery by ultra-violet proof glass are under consideration.

[Ministry of Education, O.M. No. F. 12-8/67-CAI (5), dated the 21st December, 1967.]

**Recommendation (Serial No. 33) Para No. 50**

*The Committee commend the educational programmes undertaken by the Victoria Memorial Hall Museum. They hope that these programmes will be further intensified and strengthened.*

**REPLY OF GOVERNMENT**

Government are glad to note the appreciation remarks made by the Committee about the education programmes undertaken by the Museum. Steps would be taken to further intensify and strengthen these programmes.

[Ministry of Education, O.M. No. F. 12-8/67-CAI (5), dated the 21st December, 1967.]

**Recommendation (Serial No. 34) Para No. 51**

*The Committee feel that the Victoria Memorial Hall Museum with its varied collections relating to the British period of Indian history is capable of being and should be developed for purposes of research in modern Indian history. The Committee suggest that a comprehensive programme for research may be drawn up in conjunction with the University of Calcutta and other Universities. In order to provide facilities for research, the Victoria Memorial Hall Museum Library should be enlarged so as to include comprehensive collections on modern Indian history. The Museum should have a qualified Librarian to cater to the needs of the research scholars. More reading space should be provided for the research scholars visiting the Museum for purposes of study.*

The Committee note that the Victoria Memorial Hall Museum has not organised any exhibition since 1957. Even the exhibition that was held in that year was one sided in as much as only the British side of the 1857 uprising was shown. The Committee suggest that the Victoria Memorial Hall Museum should be helped to acquire and exhibit some pictures, books, documents etc. showing the Indian side of the 1857 rising. The Committee would further urge that the Government should provide adequate facilities to the Victoria Memorial Hall Museum for organising exhibitions on modern and contemporary history at regular intervals.

**REPLY OF GOVERNMENT**

Government have noted the recommendation of the Committee. The following steps have already been taken by the Victoria Memorial Hall Museum in this behalf:—

(a) In order to establish contact with the Universities of Calcutta and Jadavpur, the heads of the departments of History in these

Universities were invited to deliver lectures at the Victoria Memorial Hall on topics connected with historical documents in this museum. The second and the fourth lectures in the series of lectures held in the V.M. Hall in the summer of 1967 were delivered respectively by Prof. N. K. Sinha of Calcutta University and Prof. P. C. Gupta of Jadavpur University. They have been requested to mention to intending research workers the resources in this museum and to suggest that they work on materials available in the Victoria Memorial Hall. Steps have been taken to appoint a Research Fellow for training under the Curator who is a specialist in the British period of Indian History. Steps are being taken to provide necessary funds for the purchase of Library Books and equipment and also for additional staff for strengthening the activities of the Library.

Photographic reproduction of paintings of the Rani of Jhansi and Babu Kunwar Singh of Bihar, two heroes of the Rising of 1857, have been acquired and exhibited. A photostat copy of a letter written by the Rani of Jhansi to the Peshwa for aid has been obtained from the original in the National Archives and exhibited.

Government will consider giving additional grants to the Victoria Memorial Hall authorities for organising special exhibitions in the Museum.

[Ministry of Education, O.M. No. F12-8/67-CAI(5) dated the 21st December, 1967.]

#### **Recommendation (Serial No. 35) Para No. 52**

The Committee are unhappy to note that the Victoria Memorial Hall Museum has not brought out any publications for many years. The Committee cannot over-emphasise the importance of bringing out an illustrated guide book and a catalogue for the use of the visitors as well as research scholars. The Committee hope that Government would see to it that these publications are brought out without delay.

The Committee cannot appreciate the argument of the Victoria Memorial Hall Museum authorities that they could not publish the picture post cards for want of funds; rather the Committee feel that these picture post cards could have brought in some additional revenues. The Committee suggest that Victoria Memorial Hall Museum should bring out multi-coloured picture post cards which have great attraction for the tourists.

## REPLY OF GOVERNMENT

Noted. The Museum has recently brought out an illustrated Guide Book and is taking steps to bring out picture post cards, pamphlets and other publications.

[Ministry of Education, O.M. No. F12-8/67-CAI(5) dated the 21st December, 1967.]

## Recommendation (Serial No. 36) Para No. 53

The Committee note with regret that during these five years, the number of visitors has remained more or less stationary in spite of large expansion of education and increase in number of literate people. The Committee can come to only one conclusion that the authorities have not made any serious effort to attract visitors and to popularise the Museum.

The Committee suggest that concerted drive should be made to publicise the activities and importance of the Victoria Memorial Hall Museum so as to attract more visitors to this important historical Museum. The Committee also suggest that a complaint or suggestion book should be kept at the Museum where the visitors could register their views and impressions about the Museum. The Committee feel that special lectures and symposia by eminent persons organised in the Museum may be utilised for popularising the Museum and attracting more visitors.

## REPLY OF GOVERNMENT

Noted. The activities and importance of the Victoria Memorial are being publicized in newspapers. A folder giving a brief idea of the contents of the Memorial has been printed for free distribution. The illustrated guide book published recently by the Museum brings out the value and importance of the exhibits in the Museum and heightens the interest of the public, special lectures based on exhibits in this Museum were organised and will be held at regular intervals. A complaint and suggestion book has been kept for visitors to register their views and suggestions about the Museum.

[Ministry of Education, O.M. No. F12-8/67-CAI(5) dated the 21st December, 1967.]

### CHAPTER III

#### RECOMMENDATIONS WHICH THE COMMITTEE DO NOT DESIRE TO PURSUE IN VIEW OF GOVERNMENT'S REPLY

##### Recommendation (Serial No. 1) Para No. 8

The Committee note that the Indian Museum Act, 1910 (as amended by Act 45 of 1960) make no mention about the objectives of the Museum. The Committee hope that an early opportunity would be taken to define the basic objectives of the Indian Museum by a Government Resolution so that the Museum could be developed on proper lines. The Committee also feel that it is time that the Indian Museum is given the "formal status" of a National Museum and all consequential steps taken in this direction.

##### REPLY OF GOVERNMENT

Noted. The Indian Museum, Calcutta, already, in effect, enjoys the status of a National Museum for the Eastern region of the country and is already being developed as such.

[Ministry of Education O.M. No. F. 11-36/67-CAI (5), dated 27th December, 1967.]

##### FURTHER INFORMATION CALLED FOR BY THE COMMITTEE

Please state if any steps have been taken to give the "formal status" of a National Museum to the Indian Museum, Calcutta.

[LSS O.M. No. 5/6(2)/E.C.II/67, dated the 26th August 1968.]

##### REPLY OF GOVERNMENT

The formal status of the Indian Museum is already enshrined in the Constitution. It is included in List I of the Seventh Schedule in terms of which it has been declared an institution of national importance. In keeping with this, the Indian Museum is being developed as a 'national' Museum. Because of this position it has not been considered necessary to take any further steps in this behalf.

[Ministry of Education O.M. No. F. 11-36/68-CAI (5), dated the 19th October, 1968.]

### Recommendation (Serial No. 3) Para No. 10.

Having realised that the Committee set up by the Board of Trustees especially the Committee of Management and Finance Committee have very important functions to perform, the Estimates Committee suggest that the constitution of these two Committees should be more broad-based so as to include representatives from the remaining Departments of the Museum in the Committee of Management and the Director of the Museum in the Finance Committee.

#### REPLY OF GOVERNMENT

Noted.

[Ministry of Education O.M. No. F, 11-24/67-CAI (5), dated the 27th December 1967].

#### FURTHER INFORMATION CALLED FOR BY THE COMMITTEE

Please state the specific action taken in the direction of making the constitution of Committee of (i) Management and (ii) Finance more broad-based.

[LSS O.M. No. 5/6 (2) /E.C.II/67, dated the 26th August 1968.]

#### REPLY OF GOVERNMENT

The Committee of Management of Indian Museum Calcutta already has representative of all the departments functioning in the Museum as indicated below and therefore the question of further broad-basing it as suggested by the Estimates Committee does not arise:—

1. The Director, Indian Museum—Representing Art, Archaeology and Anthropology Galleries.
2. The Director General, Geological Survey of India—Representing Geological Galleries.
3. The Director, Botanical Survey of India—Representing Industrial section Galleries.
4. The Director, Zoological Survey of India—Representing Zoological Galleries.

As regards the question of broad-basing to Finance Committee so as to include the Director of the Museum in this Committee, the position is that the Director is permanent invitee to attend the meetings of the Finance Committee. In view of this position the Board of Trustees of the Indian Museum who have constituted the Finance

Committee do not consider it necessary to appoint the Director as a member of this Committee.

[Ministry of Education O.M. No. F. 11-36/68-CAI (5), dated the 19th October, 1968.]

### Recommendation (Serial No. 12) Para No. 19

The Committee are distressed to note that as many as 10 of the rare and invaluable manuscripts in the Indian Museum have been badly damaged and are beyond recovery due to lack of proper conservation. The Committee suggest that a proper enquiry should be made to fix the responsibility for this damage and loss. The Committee also note that 44 manuscripts need urgent attention for conservation in addition to 41 manuscripts which have also been conserved. They feel that Govt. have failed to make necessary provision for the preservation of rare and valuable manuscripts. They need hardly stress that immediate attention should be paid for proper conservation of all these manuscripts so that they are not lost to posterity for ever.

The Committee suggest that arrangements may be made to obtain from indigenous sources useful preservation material like cellulose acetate foil tissue paper, etc.

They also suggest that Government may provide adequate facilities to the Indian Museum for microfilming of rare manuscripts.

### REPLY OF GOVERNMENT

The recommendation has been noted. The correct position is that the manuscript collection lying with the Archaeological Survey for a long time was transferred to the Indian Museum in September 1965. 10 of these, which had been acquired by the Archaeological Survey in 1924, were found to be in a badly damaged condition. These manuscripts are presently under lamination in the National Archives of India and under treatment in the Presentation Unit of the Museum.

A scheme has been drawn up on the report of Shri T. R. Gairola, Assistant Director, National Museum, for developing the Conservation Laboratory of the Indian Museum. The scheme is currently under consideration of the Board.

[Ministry of Education O.M. No. F. 11-24/67-CAI (5), dated the 27th December, 1967.]

**Recommendation (Serial No. 19) Para No. 29**

*The Committee recommend that adequate facilities should be developed in the Library of the Indian Museum to meet growing needs of students and research workers. They feel that the Library should be properly staffed and should be in the charge of a trained Librarian.*

*The Committee also suggest that a phased programme for the development of the Library may be drawn up and implemented.*

**REPLY OF GOVERNMENT**

The recommendation has been noted. Its implementation will depend on availability of more funds.

[Ministry of Education O.M. No. F. 11-24/67-CAI (5), dated the 27th December 1967.]

**Recommendation (Serial No. 24) Para No. 38.**

*The Committee are unhappy that a society like the Asiatic Society, which has been a pioneer institution in the field of scientific and humanistic studies in this country for more than a century and half and has fostered the first museum in India has not received sufficient and legitimate encouragement from Government.*

*In view of the fact, that the Society is running at a deficit and has no sources of income other than the income from the rent that it receives, the Committee felt that the Government should render adequate financial assistance to it by way of maintenance grant. The very fact that the Society has been compelled to let out a portion of its building on rent goes to show that it stands in dire need of financial assistance. The Ministry of Education which has the primary responsibility for fostering the growth of the museum and of learned societies in this country should take more active interest in fostering the activities of the Society.*

**REPLY OF GOVERNMENT**

It will not be correct to say that the Government of India has not given sufficient encouragement to the Asiatic Society. The Ministry has taken a very active interest in helping the Society for carrying on their activities. The Society has been given grants-in-aid from the Government of India since Independence (i.e., 1946-47) totalling Rs. 16,77,650/-. A chart is attached giving the break-up of the grants given. (Appendix I). The Government of India was giving Rs. 20,000/- as maintenance grant to the Society every year until

1964-65. The Government of India also gave Rs. 11,00,000/- for the construction of the building of the Asiatic Society. The last instalment of this grant was given in 1964-65. By giving a substantial amount for the construction of their building, the Government of India enabled the Society to earn a considerable amount (Rs. 1,20,402/-) from letting out the building and the rent which they were receiving was far more than the maintenance grant which they were getting from the Government of India. In reality the position is that instead of stopping the maintenance grant to the Society, the Government of India has increased the annual income of the Society by giving them a permanent source of income. Due to paucity of funds it is not possible for Government to give any firm commitment. However, individual cases will be judged on merits.

[Ministry of Education O.M. No. F. 32-5/67-CAI (3), dated the 23rd January, 1968.]

#### **Recommendation (Serial No. 24) Para No. 38 (ii)**

*The Committee regret to learn that the Union Government have withdrawn its representative on the Council of the Society to save Rs. 6,000/- per annum to be spent for sending an official from Delhi. The Committee feel that the Government could have nominated as their representative some Central Government Officer posted at Calcutta or even some eminent non-official of Calcutta. The Committee would like to stress that Government should take more active interest in this matter.*

#### **REPLY OF GOVERNMENT**

Noted. In view of the fact that Central Government had given the Society substantial grant it was hoped that the Society would be able to manage its affairs without Central representation on the Council. When the decision of withdrawal of representation was communicated to the Society, the Society did not object to the withdrawal.

If the Society requests the Government for nominating one or two Central representatives on its Council, the Government shall surely consider the matter.

[Ministry of Education O.M. No. F. 32-5/67-CAI (3), dated the 23rd January, 1968.]

#### **Recommendation (Serial No. 24) Para No. 38(iii)**

*The Committee do not find any justification for giving a building grant of Rs. 11 lakhs to the Society if the Government have not*

*appreciated the utility of this body and its proper functioning. The Committee think that the Government before making that building grant, should have ensured the proper functioning of the Society and of proper utilisation of its collections.*

#### REPLY OF GOVERNMENT

It is a fact that the Asiatic Society, Calcutta has done pioneering work and is unique. For this reason the Society's request for a building grant after having been very carefully scrutinized was met to the extent of Rs. 11 lakhs. Government felt that as a result of this grant and the subsequent rental income which would fall the Society would be able to become completely viable.

[Ministry of Education O.M. No. F. 32-5/67-CAI (3), dated the 23rd January, 1968.]

#### Recommendation (Serial No. 24) Para No. 38(iv)

*The Committee further feel that it is not quite proper for the Government to ask a learned Society like the Asiatic Society to maintain itself or to allow its valuable and rare collections to go waste and deteriorate. The Committee would like to impress that the collections in the Society are the precious property of the nation and the Government should have taken active interest in the maintenance and proper utilisation of the collected materials.*

#### REPLY OF GOVERNMENT

The fact that Government gave as much as Rs. 16,77,650/-to this Society itself proves that the Government was concerned with the safety and well being of the collections belonging to Society. The Society has sent a scheme with regard to the preservation of books and manuscripts. This is under examination though due to paucity of funds it may not be possible for Government to meet the costs involved.

[Ministry of Education O.M. No. F. 32-5/67-CAI (3) dated the 23rd January, 1968.]

#### COMMENTS OF THE COMMITTEE

*The Committee desire that the Government should try to give every possible assistance to the Asiatic Society to implement its scheme with regard to the preservation of books and manuscripts.*

#### Recommendation (Serial No. 24) Para No. 38(v)

*The Committee are unhappy about the low pay scales of the staff and recommend that the Government should look into the matter and will help the Asiatic Society to take effective steps to improve*

*the pay-scales and service conditions of all categories of staff employed therein.*

#### REPLY OF GOVERNMENT

The Society is a registered body with its own Council. No proposal regarding pay scales, etc., has been received from the Society. It is nevertheless felt that it would not be desirable for Government to interfere in the manner in which the Society manages its affairs

[Ministry of Education O.M. No. F. 32-5/67-CAI (3), dated the 23rd January, 1968.]

#### Recommendation (Serial No. 24) Para No. 38(vii)

*The Committee are not happy about the present organisational and administrative set up of the Society and would suggest that an early review may be made in this direction. They would also urge that in view of its importance as a learned Society, the Government should have a more direct and active role to play in its organisation and administration.*

#### REPLY OF GOVERNMENT

The recommendations of the Committee are largely for the Society itself to implement. Regarding Government's role in the organisation and administration of the Society, attention is drawn to the reply given under 38(ii).

[Ministry of Education O.M. No. F. 32-5/67-CAI (3) dated the 23rd January, 1968]

#### Recommendation (Serial No. 27) Para No. 44

*The Committee regret that even after 19 years of independence no steps have been taken to re-organise the Board of Trustees, which, as at present constituted, is not likely to inspire much confidence and give a lead in the all-round development of the Museum. The Committee hope that immediate steps will be taken to reorganise the Board of Trustees so as to make it a suitable organ for running a learned body in which the representatives of Museum Association of India, Indian Museum, Calcutta, the Ashutosh Museum of Calcutta University, the Central and the State Government interested (i.e. of the Eastern Zone) may be included. If necessary, the relevant Act may be suitably amended to meet this purpose.*

#### REPLY OF GOVERNMENT

The Trustees are appointed in accordance with the Constitution of the Act and any change in this regard will require amendment to the Act of Parliament.

It is not a fact that the Trustees of the Victoria Memorial Hall have not changed during the last 19 years. The Trustees are appointed in their personal capacity, persons who have some standing and can look after Government property to the best of their ability. When available Government nominate an expert but the Board of Trustees are always free to appoint Committees comprising of experts and art connoisseurs to advise on mechanical matters.

[Ministry of Education O.M. No. F. 12-8/67-CAI (5), dated the 21st December, 1967.]

**Recommendation (Serial No. 31) Para No. 48**

(ii) *The Committee would suggest that Government may explore the feasibility of keeping in the Victoria Memorial Hall Museum or any other suitable place the status of the British and other foreign dignitaries which have been removed from public places all over the country.*

**REPLY OF GOVERNMENT**

The Government of India have, in pursuance of a policy decision announced by the late Prime Minister Shri Jawaharlal Nehru in Parliament on the 13th May, 1957 (Appendix II), to the effect that the Statues removed/to be removed from various places will be kept in historical museums addressed all the State Governments requesting them to find some open space, preferably around the museums in their respective States for keeping these Statues. The matter has again been reconsidered by the Government of India in the light of above recommendation of the Estimates Committee. It has been decided by the Government of India that in view of inadequate space it is not feasible to keep any more Statues of the British and other foreign dignitaries in the Victoria Memorial Hall Museum, Calcutta. It is for the State Governments, who have already been addressed in the matter, to put these Statues removed or to be removed from within their area in a historic museum or at any other place in the State.

[Ministry of Education O.M. No. F. 12-5/67-CAI (S), dated the 17th June, 1968.]

**Recommendation (Serial No. 37) Para No. 54**

*The Committee are unhappy to note that the expenditure being incurred by the Victoria Memorial Hall Museum on acquisition and preservation of art objects, purchase of books and equipment etc. is negligible as compared to the expenditure being incurred on staff. They are all the more unhappy to note that nothing has been pro-*

vided for research work and more amount is spent for the maintenance of the garden than the Museum proper. The Committee feel that expenditure on the maintenance of the garden should not be a charge on the Museum but it should be met out of a separate grant to be given to the Museum for the purpose. It should, however, be ensured that the garden is not neglected and is properly maintained. The Committee would like the Ministry of Education to go carefully into the budget of the Museum so as to ensure that the amount are spent properly and in keeping with the needs of the Museum before sanctioning the grants.

#### REPLY OF GOVERNMENT

Noted. Steps have been taken to expand the Museum with the object of maintaining the continuity of history and to project it into the 20th Century. Accordingly portraits of national leaders have been prepared and other exhibits have been acquired. It may be pointed out that some of these exhibits have been received as free gifts from time to time without incurring any expenditure on the acquisition of those objects.

The garden expenditure is met out of the funds of the Trustees. It may be pointed out that the Govt. of India, Ministry of Education sanctions only a maintenance grant which covers the expenditure on the establishment including dearness allowance to the staff and a small portion of grant for the development schemes of the Victoria Memorial Hall. Steps are taken to ensure that the grants from the Central Government are properly spent for the purpose for which these are sanctioned. These grants are being sanctioned after keeping in view the needs and capacity of the Victoria Memorial Hall.

[Ministry of Education O.M. No. F. 12-8/67-CAI(5) dated the 21st December, 1967.]

#### Recommendation (Serial No. 38) Para No. 55

The Committee are constrained to note that a large amount, which was intended for the purchase of objects of interest or art or for the adornment or completion of the Victoria Memorial Hall Museum, has been allowed to accumulate in the Endowment Fund now held with the State Bank of India, London. They are unhappy that no steps have been taken by the Government to have the funds transferred to India for being spent for the development of the Museum. The Committee would stress the need for the early trans-

*fer of the funds from London so that they could be utilised for the betterment of the Museum.*

#### REPLY OF GOVERNMENT

Noted. The legal implications are under examination.

[Ministry of Education O.M. No. F. 12-8/67-CAI(5) dated the 21st December, 1967.]

#### FURTHER INFORMATION CALLED FOR BY THE COMMITTEE

*Please intimate the final action taken in the direction of early transfer of the funds from London.*

[LSS O.M. No. 5/6(2)/E.CII/67, dated the 26th August, 1968.]

#### REPLY OF GOVERNMENT

The Solicitor to the Central Government at Calcutta was requested to give his views as to whether the corpus of the Fund or even the accumulated income can under the laws governing Trusts in England be transferred to India. His view is that the Trustees of the Victoria Memorial Hall have no power to transfer the Funds to India without order of Court. After consulting the Solicitor to the Central Government the members of the Executive Committee of the Victoria Memorial Hall, Calcutta, resolved in February 1968 that the Governor of West Bengal be first appointed the Trustee of Curzon Fund. For this purpose action has been taken to file a petition before the Calcutta High Court. The question of location of the Fund could then be decided by the Governor as the sole Trustee of the Fund.

[Ministry of Education O.M. No. F. 11-36/67-CAI(5) dated the 19th October, 1968.]

NEW DELHI;  
8th January, 1969  
18th Pausa, 1890 (Saka)

P. VENKATASUBBAIAH,  
Chairman,  
Estimates Committee.

# APPENDIX I

(vide reply to recommendation No. 24 in Chapter III)

*Statement Showing the Grant-in-Aid paid to the Asiatic Society, Calcutta for the various objects since 1946-47 upto 1966-67*

| Year    | Towards cataloguing etc. of Arabic & persian manuscripts | Towards maintenance | Towards preservation of manuscripts & books | Towards building construction | Towards survey of manuscripts libraries in Nepal | Towards publication | Towards purchase of micro-films unit | Total  |
|---------|----------------------------------------------------------|---------------------|---------------------------------------------|-------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------|---------------------|--------------------------------------|--------|
| 1       | 2                                                        | 3                   | 4                                           | 5                             | 6                                                | 7                   | 8                                    | 9      |
|         | Rs.                                                      | Rs.                 | Rs.                                         | Rs.                           | Rs.                                              | Rs.                 | Rs.                                  | Rs.    |
| 1946-47 | 5,000                                                    | 20,000              | ..                                          | ..                            | ..                                               | ..                  | ..                                   | 25,000 |
| 1947-48 | 5,000                                                    | 20,000              | ..                                          | ..                            | ..                                               | ..                  | ..                                   | 25,000 |
| 1948-49 | 5,000                                                    | 20,000              | ..                                          | ..                            | ..                                               | ..                  | ..                                   | 25,000 |
| 1949-50 | 5,000                                                    | 18,000              | 7,300                                       | ..                            | ..                                               | 10,000              | ..                                   | 40,300 |
| 1950-51 | 5,000                                                    | 10,000              | 7,000                                       | ..                            | ..                                               | 10,000              | ..                                   | 32,000 |
| 1951-52 | 5,000                                                    | 10,000              | ..                                          | ..                            | ..                                               | 10,000              | ..                                   | 25,000 |
| 1952-53 | 5,000                                                    | 20,000              | ..                                          | ..                            | ..                                               | 10,000              | ..                                   | 35,000 |
| 1953-54 | 5,000                                                    | 20,000              | ..                                          | ..                            | ..                                               | ..                  | ..                                   | 25,000 |

| 1                      | 2      | 3                | 4      | 5         | 6      | 7      | 8     | 9         |    |
|------------------------|--------|------------------|--------|-----------|--------|--------|-------|-----------|----|
|                        | Rs.    | Rs.              | Rs.    | Rs.       | Rs.    | Rs.    | Rs.   | Rs.       |    |
| 1954-55                | 5,000  | 20,000           | ..     | ..        | ..     | ..     | ..    | 25,000    |    |
| 1955-56                | 5,000  | 20,000           | ..     | ..        | 12,000 | ..     | ..    | 37,000    |    |
| 1956-57                | 5,000  | 20,000           | ..     | ..        | ..     | ..     | ..    | 25,000    |    |
| 1957-58                | 5,000  | 20,000           | ..     | ..        | ..     | ..     | ..    | 25,000    |    |
| 1958-59                | 5,000  | 20,000           | ..     | ..        | ..     | ..     | ..    | 25,000    |    |
| 1959-60                | 5,000  | 40,000           | ..     | 5,00,000  | ..     | ..     | ..    | 5,45,000  | 32 |
| 1960-61                | 5,000  | 40,000           | 5,000  | 4,00,000  | ..     | ..     | ..    | 4,50,000  |    |
| 1961-62                | 3,500  | 20,000<br>20,000 | ..     | ..        | ..     | ..     | 6,250 | 49,750    |    |
| 1962-63                | 2,500  | 20,000           | ..     | ..        | ..     | ..     | ..    | 22,500    |    |
| 1963-64 }<br>1964-65 } | ..     | 40,000           | ..     | 2,00,000  | ..     | ..     | ..    | 2,40,000  |    |
| TOTAL                  | 81,000 | 4,19,100         | 19,300 | 11,00,000 | 12,000 | 40,000 | 6,250 | 16,77,650 |    |

## APPENDIX II

[Vide reply to recommendation No. 31(ii) in Chapter III.]

EXTRACT FROM PRIME MINISTER'S STATEMENT MADE IN PARLIAMENT  
ON THE 13TH MAY 1957.

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"There are various kinds of statues; some may be considered historical, some may be considered artistic and some may be considered, well, rather offensive in themselves, and of various types. Our general attitude has been, first of all, to remove such as might be considered offensive, and that too gradually without making too much fuss and without doing anything to raise illwill between countries. We have removed some of those statues and we propose to continue doing that. There are those which have been historically significant without causing offence, we shall also remove them and put them in historic museums. There are those that are not important historically or artistically. I do not know what we will do with them. If somebody else wants them, we will make a present of them. In particular, regarding such statues as may be considered in a sense offensive to our national sentiment we have taken them up and we do propose to take them up but, we wish to do all this in a manner so as not to create international illwill and raise up all question which are dead and gone."

\* \* \* \* \*

"I may mention to this House that these are not all statues. There are numerous paintings, some of high artistic value. Some time we have exchanged them for valuable articles of Indian Art. So, we proceed in this way to benefit ourselves, as far as possible."

### APPENDIX III

*Analysis of the action taken by Government on the recommendations  
contained in the 5th Report of the Estimates Committee  
(Fourth Lok Sabha)*

|                                                                                                                                                                                                              |     |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----|
| 1. Total Number of recommendations . . . . .                                                                                                                                                                 | 38  |
| 2. Recommendations that have been accepted by<br>Government (vide recommendations No. 2, 4, 5, 6, 7,<br>8, 9, 10, 11, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 20, 21, 22, 23, 25,<br>26, 28, 29, 30, 31, 32, 33, 34, 35, 36) |     |
| Number . . . . .                                                                                                                                                                                             | 30  |
| Percentage to total . . . . .                                                                                                                                                                                | 79% |
| 3. Recommendations which the Committee do not<br>desire to pursue in view of Government's reply<br>(vide recommendation Nos. 1, 3, 12, 19, 24, 27, 37<br>and 38)                                             |     |
| Number . . . . .                                                                                                                                                                                             | 8   |
| Percentage to total . . . . .                                                                                                                                                                                | 21% |

| Sl. No.      | Name of Agent                                                                 | Agency No. | Sl. No.                     | Name of Agent                                                                                               | Agency No. |
|--------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------|-----------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------|
| DELHI—contd. |                                                                               |            | 30.                         | People's Publishing House, Rani Jhansi Road, New Delhi                                                      | 76         |
| 21.          | Sat Narain & Sons, 3141 Mohd. Ali Bazar, Mori Gate, Delhi.                    | 3          | 31.                         | The United Book Agency, 48, Amrit Kaur Market, Pahar Ganj, New Delhi.                                       | 88         |
| 22.          | Atma Ram & Sons, Kashmir Gate, Delhi-6                                        | 9          | 32.                         | Hind Book House, 82, Janpath, New Delhi.                                                                    | 95         |
| 23.          | J. M. Jaina & Brothers, Mori Gate, Delhi.                                     | 12         | 33.                         | Bookwell, 4, Sant Narakari Colony, Kingsway Camp, Delhi-9.                                                  | 96         |
| 24.          | The Central News Agency, 23/90, Connaught Place, New Delhi                    | 15         | MANIPUR                     |                                                                                                             |            |
| 25.          | The English Book Store, 7-L, Connaught Circus, New Delhi.                     | 20         | 34.                         | Shri N. Chaoba Singh, News Agent, Ramlal Paul High School Annex, Imphal.                                    | 77         |
| 26.          | Lakshmi Book Store, 42 Municipal Market, Janpath, New Delhi                   | 23         | AGENTS IN FOREIGN COUNTRIES |                                                                                                             |            |
| 27.          | Bahree Brothers, 188, Lajpatrai Market, Delhi-6.                              | 27         | 35.                         | The Secretary, Establishment Department, The High Commission of India, India House, Aldwych, LONDON, W.C.-2 |            |
| 28.          | Jayana Book Depot, Chapparwala Kuan, Karol Bagh, New Delhi.                   | 66         |                             |                                                                                                             |            |
| 29.          | Oxford Book & Stationery Company, Scindia House, Connaught Place, New Delhi-1 | 68         |                             |                                                                                                             |            |

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