

(d) which one has been accepted?

The Minister of Steel and Heavy Industries (Shri C. Subramaniam): (a) to (d). Negotiations were held with only one party for the establishment of bio-gas plants, viz., the Chemolimpex of Hungary. Copies of the agreement concluded with the party are available in the Parliament Library.

Shri Subodh Hansda: May I know whether the place for putting up this bio-gas pilot plant has been selected?

Shri C. Subramaniam: Yes, Sir; the places have been selected.

Shri Subodh Hansda: What is the total foreign exchange requirement for putting up this plant?

Shri C. Subramaniam: I do not think any foreign exchange component is involved. The total estimated cost of the two pilot plants will be Rs. 20 lakhs.

Post Graduate Degrees

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*950. { **Shri Shree Narayan Das:**
 { **Shri D. C. Sharma:**

Will the Minister of Education be pleased to state:

(a) whether a suggestion to do away with third division or class in M.A. degree has been considered by the University Grants Commission or various universities in India;

(b) if so, with what result; and

(c) whether this question has been considered by Government or is likely to be considered in the near future?

The Minister of Education (Dr. K. L. Shrimali): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Examination Reforms Committee appointed by the University Grants Commission expressed the view that the University should not award a third class at the Master's degree examination, and that at this examination there might be only two classes, first and second, provided the original standards of the first and

second classes were maintained. The Commission accepted the above recommendation.

(c) No, Sir.

Shri Shree Narayan Das: May I know whether the views of the various universities have been taken into consideration by the University Grants Commission; if so, whether any views have been received so far?

Dr. K. L. Shrimali: Yes, Sir; the University Grants Commission had consulted the universities and would again consult the universities about this matter. The previous consultation took place in connection with the suggestion that was made by the former Chairman, Shri C. D. Deshmukh, namely, that the universities should give opportunities to those who passed M.A. in third class to reappear at the same examination to improve their class. The previous proposal is slightly different from the proposal which has been made now. The universities were consulted regarding the previous proposal but the universities have to be consulted now with regard to the recommendation which has now been accepted by the University Grants Commission.

Shri Shree Narayan Das: May I know whether Delhi University has considered this matter and, if so, what is the decision taken by that body?

Dr. K. L. Shrimali: With regard to the previous proposal I might say that the Universities of Agra, Gorakhpur, Indian Agricultural Research Institute, Karnataka, Kurugshetra, Punjab, Ranchi, Roorkee, Sagar and Utkal were agreeable to the proposal and they said that they will allow third-divisioner M.Sc.s and M.A.s to appear once again in the same examination to improve their class. The Universities of Andhra, Jadavpur, Madras, Marathwada, Osmania, Sri Venkateswara and Visva Bharati have decided to abolish the third class in the M.A. and M.Sc. examinations. There are some universities which are not in agreement

with the proposal and some have stated that no action is necessary now. But this proposal as been dropped by the University Grants Commission. The new proposal is that the universities should have only two classes, namely, the first and the second. That is the proposal which has been accepted now by the University Grants Commission and they propose to consult the universities about this matter.

Shri D. C. Sharma: May I know if the University Grants Commission is in a position to take a final decision in this matter or will the decision taken by the University Grants Commission go to the Central Advisory Board for Education and the Ministry and all that kind of things?

Dr. K. L. Shrimali: The position is that the University Grants Commission has a statutory responsibility. They can give some directive to the universities when they give grants to these universities. Universities, of course, are autonomous. Acts have been passed by the State legislatures and they have their own autonomy in the field. But the general procedure that is adopted by the University Grants Commission is not to give directives but to have consultations with universities. This has worked so far between the University Grants Commission and the universities on this issue.

Shri Tyagi: What are the reasons which persuaded this Commission to make this recommendation? Will this formula of abolishing the third class also be extended to B.A. degree and matriculation examinations too?

Dr. K. L. Shrimali: As far as the first part of the question is concerned, the main consideration before the University Grants Commission has been to raise the standards in the universities. The Parliament has also been insisting on raising of certain standards and this is one of the steps which the University Grants Commission thought might help in improving the standards, that is, they have only

two classes and no third class at the post-graduate level. As far as the second part of the question is concerned, the matter will have to be further examination. It has not yet been considered by the University Grants Commission.

Shri A. N. Vidalankar: In finally deciding this question is the Government keeping in view the requirements of those candidates who are not seeking such degrees for the sake of employment but as a sign of certain minimum standard of education?

Dr. K. L. Shrimali: If the universities agree to this proposal, the minimum will be first and second class and not third class.

Shri C. K. Bhattacharyya: Since the third class is going to be abolished altogether, may I know whether there is any possibility of candidates who had previously been put in the third class being given an opportunity to qualify themselves for the higher classes?

Dr. K. L. Shrimali: I have said that the University Grants Commission have dropped the previous proposal, since most of the universities were not in agreement with that proposal.

Shri Tyagi: I want just to understand what would be the effect of this recommendation, if it is accepted. Will those students who receive marks of third class be deemed to have failed, or they will be included in the higher class—what will be the position?

Dr. K. L. Shrimali: The standards are not going to be lowered in any way. The standards of first class and second class are going to be maintained. The hon. Member can understand the effect of this measure on those candidates who cannot come up to the first or second class. The standards are not going to be lowered in any case.

Shri Sham Lal Saraf: Is the Government aware that if efficiency is improved right from below it might

be better rather than have a stop-gap reform at the top?

Dr. K. L. Shrimali: I have not been able to follow the question.

Mr. Speaker: It is only a suggestion for action.

Shri Daji: How many universities have up till now conveyed their opinion on the scheme? Is it a fact that most of the universities are not in favour of the scheme?

Dr. K. L. Shrimali: The University Grants Commission is just consulting the universities about it.

Shrimati Sarojini B. Mohishi: May I know whether the students are required to get first class or second class marks in all the subjects or in the aggregate?

Dr. K. L. Shrimali: I think in the M.A. and M.Sc. classes they have to take only one subject. It is a matter of detail and in the aggregate they have to get a certain percentage

Lime Stone

*951. { **Shri Warior:**
Shri Vasudevan Nair:

Will the Minister of Mines and Fuel be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Indian Bureau of Mines have prepared any major programmes for a nation-wise prospecting for deposits of 1st grade lime stone: and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Mines and Fuel (Shri Thimmaiah): (a) A co-ordinated programme of investigation of flux grade lime stone deposits is being drawn up by the Geological Survey of India and the Indian Bureau of Mines.

(b) These have yet to be finalised.

Shri Warior: May I know whether Government have made any assessment of the consumption during the

Third Plan and fixed the target of production?

Shri Thimmaiah: The consumption during 1960 is about two million tons and our consumption during the Third Five Year Plan would be about 7 million tons. In order to achieve this 7 million tons we will have to prove a reserve of 150 million tons during the Third Five Year Plan.

Shri Warior: May I know whether, in order to achieve that target, Government have already taken any steps apart from the geological survey?

Shri Thimmaiah: Yes, Sir. In order to step up production we have to prove sufficient reserve. With this end in view the programmes of the Geological Survey of India and the Indian Bureau of Mines have been intensified and also the programmes of these two departments have been co-ordinated, and a joint time schedule of work has been drawn up.

श्री भक्त दर्शन : क्या माननीय मंत्री जी के ध्यान में यह बात आई है कि चूने का पत्थर निकालने के सिलसिले में पहाड़ों को इस बुरी तरह बरबाद किया जा रहा है, जैसे देहरादून और मसूरी के बीच में, कि उस से बहुत बड़ा नुकसान होने की आशंका है, तो क्या इस बात का ध्यान रखवा जायेगा ?

लाल और इंधन मंत्रालय में उपमंत्री (श्री हजरनवीस) : ऐसी बात गवर्नरमेंट के स्थाल में नहीं आई है, लेकिन अगर कोई ऐसी बात माननीय सदस्य गवर्नरमेंट के स्थाल में लायेगी तो मैं जरूर उस को देखूंगा ।

Shri K. C. Pant: Is this survey being carried out specifically on account of shortages in the steel plants being experienced or is it the first of a number of surveys mineralwise to be carried out all over the country?

Shri Thimmaiah: In order to step up production to feed the steel plants we are making surveys and investigations in specified areas and we have for this purpose divided the areas into four