

वक्त इसको आर्कैमोलोजी की दृष्टि से महत्वपूर्ण नहीं समझा गया था। मैंने दुबारा आर्कैमोलोजिकल डिपार्टमेंट को आदेश दिया है कि वह जा कर इस स्थान की जांच करे और चूँकि यह ऐतिहासिक दृष्टि से एक महत्वपूर्ण स्थान है, इसलिये इसको प्रोटेक्टिव मानुमेंट बनाने की कोशिश करे।

#### National Defence Academy Examination Centres

\*1094. **Shri V. P. Nayar:** Will the Minister of Home Affairs be pleased to state:

(a) whether the National Defence Academy examination proposed to be held in December, 1957 by the UPSC will have no Centre in Kerala; and

(b) whether Government are aware of the difficulties on account of financial circumstances to the students from Kerala who have to go to Madras for the examination?

**The Minister of State in the Ministry of Home Affairs (Shri Datar):** (a) The matter is under the consideration of the UPSC

(b) The UPSC will take into consideration these as well as other relevant factors

**Shri V. P. Nayar:** May I know whether the notification issued regarding the examination specified the centres which are all outside Kerala?

**Shri Datar:** As at present, there are a number of centres. There is not one in Kerala. The question would be considered by the UPSC, it is within its jurisdiction. Probably the question that has to be taken into account would be the number of candidates available for that centre

**Shri V. P. Nayar:** Could we know from the last year's figures for this examination as to how many students wanted to sit for this examination from the State of Kerala and could we also know what are the minimum requirements of a State to get a centre for this examination in that State?

**Shri Datar:** These figures are not with me but the UPSC will consider all these questions.

**श्री भट्ट दत्त :** क्या गवर्नमेंट या कमीशन ने कभी इस सुझाव पर विचार किया है कि इस तरह की जो प्रखिल भारतीय परीक्षाएँ होती हैं वे प्रत्येक राज्य की राजधानियों में कम-से-कम प्रवश्य की जायें ताकि उस प्रान्त के लोगों को सुविधा हो ?

**श्री दातार :** यह शक्य नहीं होगा।

#### Rupee Traveller's Cheques

\*1095 **Shri Kasliwal:** Will the Minister of Finance be pleased to state:

(a) whether State Bank of India proposes to issue Rupee travellers' cheques, and

(b) if so, from what date?

**The Deputy Minister of Finance (Shri B R Bhagat):** (a) Yes, Sir

(b) It is expected that these cheques will be issued by the end of this year.

**Shri Kasliwal:** May I know whether it is proposed to put these rupee travellers' cheques on the same basis as the American Express Travellers' cheques or the Thomas Cook's cheques?

**Shri B R. Bhagat:** It will be on the same basis. They are very well established concerns and their cheques are encashable in all countries. We are making a beginning in this effort and we are making this beginning on a moderate basis

**Shri C D Pande:** In view of the fact that our rupee is now slightly less than at par in principal countries of the world compared to German Mark and American Dollar official conversion rates, will there be no difficulty to encash these cheques in foreign centres?

**Shri B. R. Bhagat:** I do not accept the insinuation

**Shri C D Pande:** It is a fact. It has gone down by about fifteen per cent.

**Shri B. E. Bhagat:** So far as the official rate of exchange is concerned, it remains the same as long as either the Mark is revalued or the rupee is devalued. As either revaluation or devaluation is not under consideration, this question does not arise.

**Mr Speaker:** He only wants to point out the difficulty and know whether this difficulty is real or not. Shri Alva.

**Shri Joachim Alva.** Thomas Cooke closed down and it caused a lot of hardship to the travelling public. Was it not open to the Government all these six months to see that travellers' cheques were issued by the State Bank? Why have they waited for six months? They could have even asked for the assistance of the Federal Bank of America and the Bank of England to see that our cheques were cashable in foreign currencies. I do not know why there has been this delay.

**Shri B. R. Bhagat:** Primarily that question is much beyond the point.

**Mr Speaker:** The simple question is this delay.

**Shri B. R. Bhagat:** We were making enquiries. *(Interruptions)*

**Mr Speaker:** Order order. The hon. Minister states that steps are being taken and before he concludes he should not be interrupted.

**Shri B. R. Bhagat:** I was going to say that we have made all enquiries as, before we issue cheques, we want to see and ascertain that the programme goes on well.

**Shrimati Tarkeshwari Sinha:** In view of the fact that these rupee cheques will go to other countries for the convenience of the travellers, may I know whether the Governments of these countries have been asked and their approval was taken before the Government actually implements this scheme?

**The Minister of Finance (Shri T. T. Krishnamachari):** It is all very hypothetical. Why should we ask the Government of any country whether it

will approve of this or not? It is for tourists to use them or not as they find it convenient when they are in India.

**Shrimati Tarkeshwari Sinha:** May I know, whether, in view of the fact, that rupee has got a very stable value as a currency, what effect will it have in the international market if rupee cheques are not acceptable in the international markets? Has the Government considered this?

**Shri T. T. Krishnamachari:** I hope the House will forgive me if I say that the hon. Members do no good to themselves or to this country by underlining a statement which is not true. The rupee is not unstable, it is stable. So far as rates are concerned, there may be what you call free-market or black market rate. What is the object of anybody asking me if the rupee is unstable and if the rupee is unstable what will happen?

**Shrimati Tarkeshwari Sinha:** I did not say unstable. *(Interruptions)*

**Mr. Speaker:** The hon. Member that according to her, the rupee was stable. I was about to say that Shri Pande has said that it was unstable. Between them they cut each other. What he wanted to say was this. These questions do not help. The hon. Members may kindly see that there is no good lowering our own prestige by our own mouth. Every attempt is being made to see that these travellers' cheques issued in rupee currencies are cashable for all concerned. Now, probing into the matter and making it impossible for him to carry on negotiations is not in the best interest. We will go to the next question.

**Shri Ranga:** Sir, I rise on a point of order. My point is this. Is there any justification for the hon. Minister to give a homily to an hon. Member who puts a question in all good faith?

**Mr. Speaker:** The hon. Minister has as much interest in pushing through this scheme as others. He finds difficulties and, therefore, he is trying to

push it through. Some hon. Members were impatient as to why there ought to be six months, why not tomorrow. He is trying to explain that these statements on the floor of this House do not help to get the scheme implemented as quickly as possible. I do not feel that there is any homily.

**Shri Ranga:** If you would be good enough to look into the answer that he has given, you will find that it is a homily.

**Mr Speaker:** Hon. Members are not in need of any homily; they want only replies.

**Shri Prabhat Kar:** May I know whether the Government will take steps to encourage the travellers from India to use these travellers' cheques on the State Bank of India?

**Shri T. T. Krishnamachari:** The only method by which we can encourage them to do it is to make it available at all places. It is better to have cheques than cash or Bank drafts though the cheques will be more costly than bank drafts, the advantages are that cheques can be cashed at any place; there are a number of places where you can cash cheques, whereas in the case of bank drafts one has to go to the particular bank and wait there for a long time. These are factors which will, probably, ultimately make these cheques popular. We will certainly do whatever is necessary to make it popular.

#### **Iron and Manganese Ore in Bombay**

\*1096 **Shri Assar:** Will the Minister of Steel, Mines and Fuel be pleased to state

(a) whether it is a fact that sufficient quantity of Iron and Manganese is available in Ratnagiri District of Bombay State,

(b) whether Government have undertaken a survey of this area, and

(c) whether there are any mines working in that area at present?

**The Minister of Mines and OH (Shri K. D. Malaviya):** (a) Some of

the deposits of iron ore and manganese in this district are sufficiently large to be capable of commercial exploitation.

(b) The Geological Survey of India carried out a survey of the iron ore and manganese ore deposits in this district during the field season 1949-50 and 1951-52. In addition, it did some detailed investigation of the manganese ore deposits in the field season 1956-57, which investigations will be continued in the next field season. The Geological Survey of India propose to carry out a similar detailed investigation into the iron ore deposits also during the next field season.

(c) There are two iron ore and three manganese ore mines working in that area at present.

**Shri Assar:** May I know whether the Government are aware that nearly 400 applications are pending for a long time in the office of the Collector, Ratnagiri, seeking permission to start mining and, if so, what are the reasons for the delay?

**Shri K. D. Malaviya:** Applications for mining leases are made to State Governments, because they own these properties. I am sorry to state that State Governments sometimes take longer time than what we think they should. Therefore, I will refer these question of delay to the State Government, so far as the hon. Member's report is concerned.

**Shri Assar:** May I know what policy is to be followed by the Government in granting licences, whether local people would be given first preference?

**Shri K. D. Malaviya:** According to our Constitution we cannot give any preference so far as granting of mining lease is concerned. We cannot give any preference to any local or other people. Everybody is allowed to apply for mining leases, and there are certain rules which guide us in granting such licences.

**Shri Jadhav:** May I know when the investigation is likely to be completed?