

are generally regarded as more forward, or will there be some sort of a guarantee that there will be a machinery to judge the merits of these students?

The Minister of Home Affairs (Pandit G. B. Pant): The amount for Backward Classes is earmarked. It is to be used only for the benefit of the Backward Classes, no part of that amount can be utilised for the benefit of other classes.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: The fear expressed was, so far as I could make out, that if their classification from the census is obliterated, how could it be possible for the Government to award those scholarships to those students?

Pandit G. B. Pant: For the present, we have given directions that those who have been treated as backward in the past—there is a list maintained in the Education Ministry—should continue to receive these stipends and scholarships.

Some Hon. Members rose—

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: There are 41 questions on the list and we have covered only 12. We will go to the next question.

Supply of Iron and Steel to Bihar

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*84. { Shri Jhulan Sinha
Pandit D. N. Tiwary }

Will the Minister of Steel, Mines and Fuel be pleased to state

(a) the total amount of iron and steel quota allotted to Bihar during the last two years and the total amount actually supplied to them during the said period, and

(b) the steps taken or proposed to be taken to increase the supply of iron and steel to Bihar?

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Steel, Mines and Fuel (Shri Gajendra Prasad Sinha): (a) The total quantity of steel allotted

to Bihar State was 24,804 tons in 1956-57 and 17,567 tons during 1957-58, against which 12,836 tons and 9,645 tons were despatched respectively.

(b) Steps have been taken to increase overall indigenous production in the country and subject to availability of foreign exchange, it is proposed to import steel to augment the indigenous supply.

Shri Jhulan Sinha: In view of the large shortfall between the quantity allotted and the quantity actually supplied, may I enquire whether Government has taken steps to ensure that such a large shortfall is not repeated in future?

The Minister of Steel, Mines and Fuel (Sardar Swaran Singh): I agree with the hon. Member that the disparity between the actual allocation and supply is somewhat large, and I have already issued instructions that steps should be taken to step up the supplies as against allocations.

Shri P. G. Sen: From the answer to Starred Question No. 1746 dated 18-4-1958 I find that some States were given in excess of their quotas whereas Bihar has been supplied only 49.7 per cent. It is, therefore, established now that Bihar was unfairly treated by the Iron and Steel Controller. May I know how Government propose to compensate Bihar for this?

Sardar Swaran Singh: I am afraid I cannot agree with the complaint that the hon. Member has against the Iron and Steel Controller. The movement difficulties have been there, particularly movements north of Bihar on account of the bottleneck at Mokameh Bridge. I have looked into the matter and I have taken some steps to ensure that the movement difficulties may be tackled in consultation with the Railway Ministry.

Shri Tridib Kumar Chaudhuri: May I know whether the proposed amount of allotment of iron and steel men-

tioned in the answer is inclusive of the allotments made to the big industrial and engineering concerns, or do these firms have to obtain their quota separately?

Sardar Swaran Singh: The quantities that have been given in the answer include allocations under the following heads: non-agricultural quota, agricultural quota, small-scale industries and G. D. S.

Hospital Staff of State Collieries

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*85. { **Shri Halder:**
 Shri H. N. Mukerjee:

Will the Minister of **Steel, Mines and Fuel** be pleased to state—

(a) whether the grievances of the hospital staff of Government collieries in respect of weekly rest and gazetted holiday have been examined; and

(b) if so, the decision taken in the matter?

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Steel, Mines and Fuel (Shri Gajendra Prasad Sinha): (a) Yes; by the National Coal Development Corporation (P) Ltd.—a Government Company, to which the management and ownership of Government Collieries were transferred with effect from 1-10-1956.

(b) The Company decided that there was no need to disturb the existing arrangements.

Shri Halder: May I know why the staff of Government collieries are denied certain facilities that are given to people similarly employed under the Railway Ministry, and why this anomaly should not be removed?

The Minister of Steel, Mines and Fuel (Sardar Swaran Singh): That is a suggestion for action. We looked into it and we thought that for those people who have entered this service according to these terms, the existing terms should continue.

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Oil India (Private) Ltd.

*86. **Shrimati Mafida Ahmed:** Will **Minister of Steel, Mines and Fuel** be pleased to state:

(a) the total value of the assets of the Assam Oil Co. in the newly found oil area of Assam as estimated by the Assessment Committee for transfer to the Oil India (Private) Ltd.; and

(b) the date from which the Oil India (Private) Ltd. is expected to function?

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Steel, Mines and Fuel (Shri Gajendra Prasad Sinha): (a) The report of the Assessment Committee is still under consideration.

(b) Oil India (Private) Ltd is already functioning under aegis of an ad hoc Board of Directors pending its formal incorporation.

Shrimati Mafida Ahmed: May I know, Sir, the basic of the agreement for the formation of the Oil India (Private) Limited?

The Minister of Mines and Oil (Shri K. D. Malaviya): It has been already stated in this House, and if the hon. Member wishes I can pass on the general scheme of the agreement to her.

Shri Narayanankutty Menon: May I know whether there are any secret clauses in this agreement and, if there are any, whether the hon. Minister will place on the Table of the House the whole agreement with Assam Oil Company as well as with Oil India (Private) Limited?

Shri K. D. Malaviya: There are no secret clauses in the agreement, and the whole agreement can be placed on the Table of the House if the hon. Member so wishes.

Shrimati Mafida Ahmed: Is it not a fact, Sir, that the A.O.C., partner of