

Shri H. N. Mukerjee: In view of the library of the Asiatic Society, which contains some very valuable Tibetan and other oriental manuscripts, being in a very bad condition, will Government offer some assistance to the library in particular?

Dr. K. L. Shrimali: As I said, we are awaiting the revised proposals from the Society.

Shri H. N. Mukerjee: Is Government aware that the President of the Asiatic Society, Dr. S. N. Sen, is making almost a desperate appeal to the country to come up with funds to assist the Society; in view of that, will Government do something in the matter and see that they otherwise help the Society?

Dr. K. L. Shrimali: I would certainly consider all reasonable requests which are made by the Society. That is all that I can say at the present moment. I cannot make any definite commitment unless we receive proposals from the Society.

Shri A. C. Guha: May I know what is the annual grant given to this Society by the Central Government and if there is any proposal to increase the grant?

Dr. K. L. Shrimali: Since 1953-54, the Government of India have been making the Society a grant of Rs. 25,000 annually. Rs. 20,000 for general maintenance and Rs. 5000 towards cataloguing of manuscripts. In addition to this, the Government of India also agreed to grant Rs. 24,000 to the Society for the implementation of its scheme for a survey of the manuscripts in the libraries in Nepal. I would like to inform hon. Members that the Society were not able to utilise the grant so far. In fact, the first instalment of Rs. 12,000 was paid to them in October, 1955. The Survey party of the Society proceeded to Nepal, for the first time, in October-November, 1956. Unfortunately, they went without the prior approval of the Nepal Government. The purpose was not fulfilled. I understand that they are taking further action in that matter.

Shri Biren Roy: Is the Government aware that even the ceiling of this building is nearly falling down and unless steps are taken before the monsoon sets in Calcutta, many valuable manuscripts and documents will be destroyed?

Dr. K. L. Shrimali: I would request the hon. Member to ask the Society to send their proposals as quickly as possible. They would be examined.

Indian Naval Canteen Service

*343. **Shri Warrior:** Will the Minister of Defence be pleased to state:

(a) the status of the Indian Naval Canteen Service employees;

(b) whether there are any rules regulating the conditions of service of these employees?

The Deputy Minister of Defence (Sardar Majithia): (a) The status of the employees of the Indian Naval Canteen Service is that of private employees.

(b) The existing terms and conditions of service of an employee of the Indian Naval Canteen Service are described in his letter of appointment, a copy of which is placed on the Table of the House. [See Appendix II, annexure No. 50.]

Shri Narayanankutty Menon: May I know whether the Industrial Disputes Act and other labour laws are applicable to the employees of Indian Naval Canteen Service?

Mr. Speaker: He said, No, they are all private servants.

Shri Narayanankutty Menon: My question was whether the Industrial Disputes Act and other labour legislations are applicable to the employees of the Indian Naval Canteen Service.

Sardar Majithia: I have already replied that they are private employees.

Shri V. P. Nayar: Does he say that private employees will not come within the scope of labour laws?

Mr. Speaker: It is a matter of opinion.

Shri V. P. Nayar: I thought he was merely distinguishing the employees as private because they are not in Defence services.

Mr. Speaker: They are not Government employees.

Shri B. S. Murthy: May I know the reasons why the Indian Naval Canteen Service is treated as private, when the profits of the service are going to the amenities of the naval cadets?

Sardar Majithia: It is managed by a Board of Control. It took a loan. It is not a public fund. It is a private fund. Therefore, they are private employees.

Mr. Speaker: Next Question.

Shri Kasliwal: No. 344.

Shri N. R. Muniswamy: I suggest, question 349 may also be clubbed along with this.

Mr. Speaker: We are not allowing more than three questions to each Member. All these questions, if they are clubbed together, only a few Members will have their questions asked which will occupy the whole of the question hour. Questions are dispersed over the entire list of questions for the day. Therefore, if on the floor of the House, Members ask leave for clubbing of questions, the object of dispersing them will be frustrated. Anyhow, as far as this question is concerned, I will allow it. Hereafter, I won't allow such clubbing.

Reserve Bank of India

*344. **Shri Kasliwal:** Will the Minister of Finance be pleased to state whether it is a fact that the Reserve Bank of India has recently issued a warning to scheduled banks against providing excessive finance on the security of shares?

The Deputy Minister of Finance (Shri B. R. Bhagat): It is a fact that the Reserve Bank has asked Banks not to advance monies for speculation on shares.

Reserve Bank of India

*349. **Shri N. R. Muniswamy:** Will the Minister of Finance be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Reserve Bank of India issue periodical directives to all banks in respect of principles to be adopted while making advances to parties seeking loans; and

(b) the procedure to check advances for wrong purposes?

The Deputy Minister of Finance (Shri B. R. Bhagat): (a) The Reserve Bank of India have powers under the provisions of the Banking Companies Act, 1949, to give directions to any banking company in particular or banking companies generally in relation to their advances portfolio and they issue such directives if and when the circumstances so require.

(b) The Reserve Bank of India get periodical returns furnished by the banks and undertake periodical inspections of the banks. In particular cases, officers are specially deputed by the Reserve Bank to verify whether their instructions are followed by the banks.

Shri Kasliwal: Presumably this direction was issued in order to curb speculative activity in shares, but under the Securities Contracts Act the Stock Exchanges have been invested with large powers to put a curb on such speculative activity. May I know why the Stock Exchanges have not taken steps to put an end to such unhealthy activity?

The Minister of Finance (Shri T. T. Krishnamachari): That question should be addressed to the Stock Exchanges.

Shri N. R. Muniswamy: May I know whether it is a fact that instructions were issued by the Reserve Bank to