

claiming exemptions and if so who are they?

Shri Datar: I have not got the information so far as the latter question is concerned.

Shri Radha Raman: May I know if Government propose to give exemption to this class?

Shri Datar: I cannot express any opinion at this stage. It depends on the interpretation of the terms of the Estate Duty Bill and whether the various kinds of property have come under the expression 'property' in the Estate Duty Bill.

Shri T. K. Chaudhuri: Is it in the contemplation of Government to allow exemptions to princes and other privileged persons outside the scope of the Bill?

Shri Datar: Naturally not.

COMMONWEALTH CONFERENCE

***1815. Shrimati Tarkeshwari Sinha:** (a) Will the Minister of Defence be pleased to state whether it is a fact that the Government of India have sent a service delegation to participate in the Fourth Commonwealth Defence Conference which is being held in London from the 20th April, 1953 to 9th May, 1953?

(b) If so, how many delegates are participating in the aforesaid Conference?

(c) Who is leading the Indian delegation?

(d) What is the nature of the agenda that is placed before the Conference?

The Deputy Minister of Defence (Shri Satish Chandra): (a) Yes.

(b) Six Indian delegates will participate of whom two have gone from India.

(c) Col. N. N. Chopra, Controller of Stores Development, Army Headquarters.

(d) Among the subjects to be discussed at the Conference are technical and scientific development in the design and inspection of general Defence Stores, equipment and clothing.

Shrimati Tarkeshwari Sinha: May I know, Sir, how many Commonwealth countries are participating in this Conference?

Shri Satish Chandra: All the Commonwealth countries.

Shrimati Tarkeshwari Sinha: May I know, Sir, whether the Conference will only discuss scientific and technical development problems or the question of the security of South-East Asia is also going to be considered?

Shri Satish Chandra: No questions relating to security of South East Asia or any other part are to be discussed. It is a conference purely for the exchange of information on the development of the equipment, clothing and stores—stores including the methods of storing and inspection of stores, etc.

KOH-I-NOOR JEWEL

***1816. Shri P. L. Kureel:** Will the Minister of Education be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that during the British regime articles of historical importance, art treasures antiques and rarities were taken out of India by the then Government and sent to England;

(b) whether it is a fact that amongst the things so sent is included the historical jewel Koh-i-Noor;

(c) whether it is a fact that the Government of India have arrived at some understanding with the British Government on the question of the return of the rarities and antiques mentioned in part (a) above; and

(d) whether Government have included the famous Koh-i-Noor in the list of articles which are sought to be claimed back from the British Government?

The Deputy Minister of Natural Resources and Scientific Research (Shri K. D. Malaviya): (a) Yes.

(b) Yes.

(c) and (d). No, Sir. The matter is under consideration.

Shri P. L. Kureel: Do Government propose to make a representation to recover the jewel?

Shri K. D. Malaviya: They are making all sorts of attempts to get as much of these articles as possible.

Shri P. L. Kureel: Have Government received any representation from any scientist in this regard?

Shri K. D. Malaviya: I am not aware of any representation having been received from any scientist in this regard.

Shri Chattopadhyaya: May I know whether Government propose to