

Shri Muniswamy: May I know whether there have been any complaints from students, particularly from the Law College and the Presidency College, Madras, regarding delay in the distribution of the amount by the authorities?

Shri K. D. Malaviya: I do not know whether there was a complaint from the Law College, but there were certain complaints made and I have already stated the reasons.

Shri Nanadas: May I know what steps are being taken by Government to avoid all possible delay in the distribution of the amount in the current year?

Shri K. D. Malaviya: I have already said that we are trying to get things done, in all possible ways.

Shri Ganpati Ram: May I know whether it is a fact that some students already awarded State Government scholarship, have rejected the Government of India scholarships and if so, whether those stipends have been awarded?

Shri K. D. Malaviya: Yes, Sir. Some of the students who were awarded Central Government scholarships refused them because the State Government scholarships were higher. In their places the scholarships have been awarded to other students.

RURAL INDEBTEDNESS

*2040. **Shri Jhulan Sinha:** Will the Minister of Finance be pleased to state:

(a) the latest position regarding the nature and extent of rural indebtedness in India; and

(b) the measures proposed to liquidate the same?

The Deputy Minister of Finance (Shri A. C. Guha): (a) Exact data regarding rural indebtedness in India are not available. The latest authoritative estimate in this regard is the one made in 1931 by the Indian Central Banking Enquiry Committee which put the total indebtedness at about Rs. 900 crores. While no data are available to show how much of this debt has been liquidated in recent years as a result of the rise in agricultural prices, the Rural Banking Enquiry Committee (1950) has expressed the view that the indebtedness has probably been reduced and especially

the debts of large and medium landholders have been reduced substantially.

(b) Agricultural indebtedness is a State subject and the measures that are necessary to liquidate it fall within the sphere of action of the State Governments. The States have been taking necessary steps as and when circumstances require.

Shri Jhulan Sinha: May I know if the extent of indebtedness of the poorer section of the people has increased or decreased since the last enquiry was held?

Shri A. C. Guha: As I have already stated, we have not got any definite data. Only, the Rural Banking Enquiry Committee's opinion is that due to the rise in the prices of agricultural products, large and medium size agriculturists have benefited as regards the liquidation of their indebtedness. We have no definite data as regards the smaller agriculturists' indebtedness.

Shri Kanungo: May I know what are the surveys or studies conducted by the various Governments, particularly Madras, in this regard?

Shri A. C. Guha: There might have been so many of them. I am not in a position to state just now.

Shri Jhulan Sinha: May I know if in the Enquiry held in 1950 there is an expression of view that the poorer section of the people have been less benefited by the rise of agricultural prices?

Shri A. C. Guha: I have already stated that that is the position; but we cannot give any definite opinion. But I do not know how far that position is exactly correct.

Shri V. P. Nayar: May I know whether Government have made any efforts to assess the relationship of rural indebtedness to the system of land tenure which is so oppressive to the landless tillers?

Shri A. C. Guha: Among the different measures taken by the State Governments there is also one regarding reorganisation of land tenure. So Government must have taken that into consideration.

Shri T. S. A. Chettiar: In view of the conflict of opinion in various parts may I know whether Government would consider the advisability of having an enquiry into rural indebtedness in the country?

Shri A. C. Guha: The Reserve Bank is seized of the matter and there is a special department of the Reserve Bank which is looking into this thing and a survey Committee has also been set up by them to look into this.

Shrimati A. Kale: May I know how much land has been taken over by the creditor on account of the inability of the debtor to pay the debt?

Shri A. C. Guha: I have not got the information with me just now.

Shri L. N. Mishra: May I know why the money market in the rural areas has of late proved to be so tight when the prices of agricultural crops have not fallen down so heavily?

Shri A. C. Guha: The question follows from a premise which I am not in a position to accept just now.

• श्री बांगड़े: क्या मैं जान सकता हूँ कि किन किन राज्यों में देहात के किसानों के कर्ज को कम करने के लिये डेट कंसिलिएशन बोर्ड स्थापित किये गये हैं और मनी लेंडर्स ऐक्ट बने हैं ?

Shri A. C. Guha: I think all the Part A States and almost all Part B States have taken measures, including the one suggested by the hon. Member.

Shri Thanu Pillai: How is the Economic Adviser's Department assessing the economic situation in the country without an assessment of the situation with respect to rural indebtedness?

Shri A. C. Guha: Sir, it is more or less a question of argument.

Shri A. M. Thomas: May I know whether Government have a comprehensive scheme for setting up co-operative land mortgage banks to relieve rural indebtedness and, if so, may I know what help they are intending to give?

Shri A. C. Guha: One of the major steps in this direction is the setting up of land mortgage banks, and this has also been recommended by the Rural Banking Enquiry Committee.

COMPENSATORY ALLOWANCE TO RAILWAY EMPLOYEES AT TANJORE

*2041. **Shri Venkataraman:** Will the Minister of Finance be pleased to state:

(a) whether according to recent census figures, the Railway employees in Tanjore have become eligible for payment of city allowance;

(b) whether city allowance is being paid to the said employees; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

The Deputy Minister of Finance (Shri M. C. Shah): (a) No, Sir.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Only those towns which had a substantial excess over one lakh on the basis of 1951 census figures were included in the list of Class 'C' towns. Since Tanjore did not satisfy this criterion, it was omitted from the list.

Shri Venkataraman: May I ask what my hon. friend means by 'substantial excess over 1 lakh'—is it 20,000, or what is the figure?

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: That was already asked the other day.

Shri M. C. Shah: I had already stated "15 per cent." the other day.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: That was asked threadbare the other day. Next question.

REPRESENTATIONS FROM DISPLACED PERSONS OF SIND

*2042. **Shri Gidwani:** Will the Minister of Rehabilitation be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have received representations from organisations of displaced persons from Sind and from displaced Sind public workers including the Congressmen that the properties left by Sind Hindus and Sikhs in Sanitary Committee areas there be treated as urban properties on par with the properties left in the Small Town Committees of Punjab;

(b) whether Government have considered the same; and

(c) if so, what their decision is?

The Deputy Minister of Rehabilitation (Shri J. K. Bhonsle): (a) Yes.

(b) Yes.

(c) Reference to the provisions of clause (d) of Section 2 of the Displaced Persons (Claims) Act, 1950 will