

In order to avoid confusion in nomenclature, the State Governments have been requested to inform the Central Government of their intention to use the term "national" in respect of any of their institutions.

#### SCHOOLS FOR HANDICAPPED CHILDREN

\*850. **Shri T. S. A. Chettiar:** Will the Minister of Education be pleased to state:

(a) the number of schools for handicapped children in India and the number of children studying in them; and

(b) whether any survey has been made about the number of such children in the country?

**The Minister of Education and Natural Resources and Scientific Research (Maulana Azad):** (a) According to information available with the Government, there are 50 institutions for the blind, 42 institutions for the deaf and 3 institutions for the mentally handicapped children in the country. About 2,000 blind students, 2,000 deaf students and 100 mentally retarded children are studying in these institutions.

(b) No.

#### REPORTS OF ADMINISTRATORS OF INSURANCE COMPANIES

\*853. **Shri A. N. Vidyalkar:** Will the Minister of Finance be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Administrators of Insurance Companies appointed under Section 52-A of the Insurance Act or any of them have filed reports with the Controller of Insurance as required under Section 52-B; and

(b) if so, whether Government propose to place such reports on the Table of the House and state what action the Controller has taken under sub-section (2) of Section 52-B?

**The Minister of Finance (Shri C. D. Deshmukh):** (a) Yes, Sir, in certain cases.

(b) No, Sir. Action under Section 52 B(2) has not yet been finalised in any case.

#### TECHNICAL CO-OPERATION PROGRAMME

\*861. **Shri Krishna Chandra:** (a) Will the Minister of Finance be pleased to state whether under the Technical Co-operation programme, any persons have been sent to U. S. A. for study in

modern agricultural and public health techniques, hydro-electric projects, etc.?

(b) What financial assistance is given to these persons by U. S. A.?

(c) How are these persons selected?

(d) How long is this programme to continue?

**The Minister of Finance (Shri C. D. Deshmukh):** (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The entire cost of training including suitable subsistence allowance and travel is met by the U.S. Government.

(c) The persons are selected by the Ministries concerned or State Governments as the case may be.

(d) This is an annual programme.

#### CENTRAL BOARD OF EDUCATION

\*863. { **Shri Damodara Menon:**  
**Shri Kelappan:**

Will the Minister of Education be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to constitute a Central Board of Education so that a uniform course of studies and standard may be maintained in the various branches of learning in the different Universities; and

(b) whether the Board of Secondary Education has done anything to bring about uniformity in the standard and course of studies of Secondary Education?

**The Minister of Education and Natural Resources and Scientific Research (Maulana Azad):** (a) The intention is to set up a Central Council of University Education; but before a final decision is taken, the matter will be discussed at a Conference of Education Ministers of States and Vice-Chancellors of Universities to be held shortly.

(b) Perhaps the hon. Member has the Secondary Education Commission in mind. The Commission has not yet submitted its report.

#### P.T.O. CONCESSION FOR CENTRAL GOVERNMENT EMPLOYEES

\*864. **Shri Lakshman Singh Charak:** Will the Minister of Home Affairs be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government contemplate to re-introduce the P.T.O. for Government servants; and

(b) if the answer to part (a) above be in the negative, the reasons thereof?

**The Deputy Minister of Home Affairs (Shri Datar):** (a) and (b). The question is being examined.

#### EVACUEE PROPERTY LAW

**\*866. Sardar A. S. Saigal:** Will the Minister of **Rehabilitation** be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Pakistan Government made any offer to scratch the Evacuee Property legislation on a reciprocal basis; and

(b) whether Government have decided about the action to be taken with regard to this matter?

**The Minister of Rehabilitation (Shri A. P. Jain):** As the House is aware, Dr. Qureshi, the Pakistan Minister for Refugees and Rehabilitation made a statement in the Pakistan Constituent Assembly on 20th November, 1952 to the effect that the Pakistan Government were prepared to withdraw their evacuee property legislation provided the Government of India also agreed to do the same. On the following day in the course of supplementaries asked on the floor of this House the Prime Minister indicated that if such an offer came from Pakistan, he would be willing to consider it.

2. On the 26th February, 1953, we received a letter from Dr. Qureshi in continuance of his statement. In this communication, surprisingly enough, Dr. Qureshi suggested that the Government of India should first withdraw their evacuee property legislation from all but a few areas which are termed 'agreed areas' in the January, 1949 Agreement. Only thereafter would the way be paved for a consideration of the question of the withdrawal of the evacuee property legislation from those so-called 'agreed areas' in both the countries. Dr. Qureshi contended that under the 1949 Agreement, evacuee property laws were to operate only in the areas specified in it.

3. The Government of India have never accepted this interpretation of the January, 1949 Agreement. As is clear from the Agreement, the term 'agreed areas' used in it meant certain areas in which facilities for the exchange of revenue records of agricultural land, and facilities for the disposed of urban immovable and movable property were to be given. The Agreement nowhere mentions that the Government of either country will not be authorised to apply or extend its evacuee property laws to an area other than those specified areas. In fact, even when the 1949 Agreement was signed, evacuee

property law was in force in parts of India not included among those areas; and no demand was made by the Pakistan Government for the withdrawal of legislation from those other areas. The January, 1949 Agreement contains a note indicating that Pakistan desired to extend the scheme of the 'January' 1949 Agreement to apply to the property of Government servants wherever it was situated in either country. The Government of India, on the other hand, felt that while there could be no objection to applying the Agreement as a whole to either country, it would not be justifiable to make a distinction in favour of a particular class of persons as suggested by the Government of Pakistan. It will thus be seen that the contention of the Pakistan Government in regard to the limitation of evacuee property laws to the areas mentioned in the January, 1949 Agreement is altogether unfounded.

4. In effect, Dr. Qureshi's offer amounts to a demand that the Government of India should withdraw their evacuee property law from large parts of India before the Government of Pakistan could even consider making a beginning on their side. We have told the Pakistan Government that the proposal made by them is so extraordinary, that we can only draw the conclusion that they are not anxious to consider the matter.

There was therefore no substance in the statement made by Dr. Qureshi in the Pakistan Constituent Assembly. For our part, we have indicated that we are prepared to consider the question of evacuee property in all its aspects, and to endeavour to come to a settlement without attaching any preliminary conditions.

#### LOANS GRANTED TO PUNJAB GOVERNMENT

**\*867. Prof. D. C. Sharma:** Will the Minister of **Finance** be pleased to state:

(a) the total amount of loans granted to the Punjab Government under various counts during the last five years;

(b) the total amount of interest accrued on those loans;

(c) whether any payments have been made towards the discharge of the loans and interest thereof; and

(d) the outstanding balance under different heads of loans and the interest thereon?

**The Minister of Finance (Shri C. D. Deshmukh):** (a) to (d). A statement is laid on the Table of the House. [See Appendix VI, annexure No. 5.]