

Government have satisfied themselves that this considerable sum of Rs. 1½ lakhs was necessary for furnishing the Raj Bhavan?

Shri Datar: Government find this amount as necessary to be placed at the disposal of the Governor.

ROYALTIES ON MINERALS

*478. **Th. Lakshman Singh Charak:**

(a) Will the Minister of Natural Resources and Scientific Research be pleased to state whether Government have set up a Committee to go into details regarding the revision of the rates of royalties on Minerals in India?

(b) If so, did the Government take the views of the States before appointing any Committee and which are the States mostly concerned with this?

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

(b) The Committee was constituted on the recommendations made by the Mineral Advisory Board at its meeting held on the 7th August 1953. The representatives of State Governments were present at this meeting.

Th. Lakshman Singh Charak: May I know if all the States agreed with the view-point that the rate of royalty be increased?

Shri K. D. Malaviya: Yes, Sir, that was the general opinion.

Shri M. D. Ramasami: May I know whether the revision will affect the existing contracts of foreign firms which are doing this mining business now?

Shri K. D. Malaviya: Obviously, when the rates are revised it will be for everybody.

FOREIGN LANGUAGES SCHOOL

*479. **Th. Lakshman Singh Charak:**

(a) Will the Minister of Defence be pleased to state whether the School of Foreign languages is exclusively meant for Government employees?

(b) How many persons were studying in the School in September, 1953?

(c) How many persons have so far studied since it was started?

(d) Can a copy of the rules and regulations of the School be laid on the Table of the House?

The Minister of Defence Organisation (Shri Tyagi): (a) Normally only Government servants are eligible for admission, but a limited number of those not in Government employ are also admitted, subject to the availability of seats.

(b) 325.

(c) 1544.

(d) A copy of the prospectus of the School is laid on the Table of the House. [Copy placed in the Library, See No. S. 183/53.]

Th. Lakshman Singh Charak: May I know the number of private citizens in this School in September 1953?

Shri Tyagi: I am sorry I have not got the break-up of the students at present.

Th. Lakshman Singh Charak: May I know if the Government will kindly consider the desirability of fixing a certain percentage of the total enrolment for private citizens of India?

Shri Tyagi: The hon. Member wants more private citizens to be coming to this School. I would submit it will not be possible for us to arrange that.

Shri N. M. Lingam: May I now the languages taught in the School?

Shri Tyagi: At present French, German, Chinese, Persian, Arabic and also Russian are taught, and it is the intention to start Japanese, Burmese and Tibetan languages for which advertisement has been made for lecturers.