

Shri D. C. Sharma: May I know if the grants to ex-servicemen and amenities to servicemen are given through the State organisations?

Sardar Majithia: I have already answered that question; probably, the hon. Member was inattentive.

Shri D. C. Sharma: The difficulty is that the hon. Minister was not audible.

Sardar Majithia: It is done through the Soldiers', Sailors' and Airmen's Board.

Dr. Ram Subhag Singh: Funds are raised from time to time for the amenities and welfare of the defence personnel under various names. May I know whether there is any pool of such funds, or are they kept separately?

Sardar Majithia: So far as I know, there are no other funds, unless the hon. Member is referring to the funds collected some time back for our service personnel in Korea. That fund was managed by a separate committee and that committee has kept those funds.

Dr. Ram Subhag Singh: What about the balance of the fund that was raised for the Korean service personnel? Will that be kept in any pool or it will be spent by that very committee?

Sardar Majithia: As I have already said, they are managed by a separate committee which was formed at that moment. There are considerable funds with that committee and it is still under consideration how best to utilise them because they were raised for a specific purpose.

SCIENCE CONGRESS

*2276. **Shri Radha Raman:** Will the Minister of Natural Resources and Scientific Research be pleased to state:

(a) how many foreign delegates attended the recent Science Congress held in Hyderabad; and

(b) the expenditure incurred on this Congress by Government?

The Deputy Minister of Natural Resources and Scientific Research (Shri K. D. Malaviya): (a) 28.

(b) The actual expenditure is not yet known as the accounts have not

been finalised by the Indian Science Congress Association.

Sir, May I add with your permission that it is estimated to be something like, Rs. 70,000?

Shri Radha Raman: May I know the names of the countries which were invited and also such as were represented in the Congress?

Shri K. D. Malaviya: About 28 foreign eminent scientists attended the Congress. The countries invited and the countries from which these 28 scientists attended the Congress were: USSR, Pakistan, Burma, U.K., Italy, U.S.A., Norway, Japan, France and also a representative each of the UNESCO, F.A.O., and W.H.O.

Shri Radha Raman: May I know whether any copy of the resolutions passed there at the Congress has been received by our Government and whether there is anything which the Indian Government is required to do in that connection?

Shri K. D. Malaviya: The Indian Science Congress Association has been holding these annual sessions here with a view to enable eminent scientists to meet here and review the work that they have been doing from year to year and invite constructive criticisms on the work that they do. Their decisions or proceedings do not take any shape of resolutions.

Shri Radha Raman: May I know whether delegates invited from other countries were taken to centres of scientific research and if so, may I know the important places visited by them?

Shri K. D. Malaviya: Sir, such tour was on their programme and they were taken round our important institutes and laboratories.

RUPSI AIRFIELD

*2277. **Shri Brohmo-Choudhury:** Will the Minister of Defence be pleased to state:

(a) the allotment for the development of Rupsi Air-field (Assam) for 1953-54;

(b) what amount has been spent up-to-date; and

(c) what developments have been carried out so far?

The Deputy Minister of Defence (Sardar Majithia): (a) to (c). Rupsi airfield was abandoned by the I.A.F. in September 1948; the runways therein are, however, retained, though not maintained, by the I.A.F. Hence the question of allotments by the Defence Ministry for the development of this airfield does not arise. The airfield is, however, at present used occasionally by civil traffic. A sum of Rs. 2,000 was sanctioned as a special case in May 1953, and expended during the financial year 1953-54 on repairs to some of the concrete blocks of the runways, taxi-tracks and expansion joints.

This airfield is being transferred to the Director General of Civil Aviation, and details connected with the take-over are at present under negotiation.

Shri Brohmo-Choudhury: May I know when the repair works and improvement works are to be completed?

Sardar Majithia: A sum of Rs. 2,000 was allotted and the work was carried out in 1953-54.

FOREIGN SCHOLARSHIPS

*2281. **Shri Bheekha Bhai:** Will the Minister of Education be pleased to state how many Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribe students were awarded scholarships for studies in foreign countries during 1953-54?

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Education (Dr. M. M. Das): One person belonging to the Scheduled Castes and one to the Scheduled Tribes.

Shri Bheekha Bhai: May I know the mode of selection for these scholarships?

Dr. M. M. Das: So far as the inland scholarships to Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes and Backward Classes are concerned, they are given by a Scholarship Board including seven

Members of this House. So far as the foreign scholarships are concerned, which were given in the past I have no precise information at present.

Shri Bheekha Bhai: May I know whether students are interviewed before the award of scholarships?

Dr. M. M. Das: So far as the foreign scholarships are concerned, they are interviewed before they are selected, but I cannot commit myself.

Shri Barman: Is it a fact that the Scholarship Board reserves two scholarships for Backward Classes, Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes each, and as the hon. Member replied that only one person belonging to the Scheduled Castes and one to the Scheduled Tribes, have been selected, may I know how many candidates appeared before the Selection Board,—I think it is the Public Service Commission that does the selection ultimately—how many from each group appeared and what were their qualifications?

Dr. M. M. Das: The original question relates to 1953-54 when this new system referred to by the Member was not introduced. The hon. Member is speaking about the new scheme of foreign scholarships, six in all, which will be given during the current year. The selection has already been made by the U.P.S.C. and their recommendations are lying with the Government for consideration.

श्री गणपति राम : क्या मैं जान सकता हूँ कि ये विद्यार्थी किन किन प्रान्तों से चुने गये और किन किन देशों में वह स्टडी के लिये भेजे जायेंगे और उनकी कितने साल के लिये वजीफे दिये जायेंगे और कितना कितना दिया जायेगा ?

Dr. M. M. Das: The recommendations of the U.P.S.C. have just now been received by the Ministry and they are under consideration of the Ministry. Detailed information is not at my disposal.