

## BLIND STUDENTS

**\*432. Shri Krishnacharya Joshi:** Will the Minister of Education be pleased to state:

(a) how many blind students were given stipends by Government during 1953-54; and

(b) whether Government propose to help them for Post-Graduate Studies?

**The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Education (Dr. M. M. Das):** (a) 15.

(b) Scholarships for Post-Graduate studies can be awarded under the Government of India's Scheme of Post-School Scholarships for the Blind.

**Shri Krishnacharya Joshi:** Do Government propose to give foreign scholarships to these blind students?

**Dr. M. M. Das:** Under the present scheme there is no mention of such proposal.

**Shri Krishnacharya Joshi:** May I know how many blind students graduated this year from Hyderabad State and how many with distinction?

**Dr. M. M. Das:** This year eight blind persons have graduated, six from Ajmer and two from Hyderabad. How many of them have graduated with distinction I do not know.

**Shri Sadhan Gupta:** What is the amount of stipend given in each case and the State-wise break-up of the number of recipients?

**Dr. M. M. Das:** Fifteen scholarships have been awarded last year. The State-wise break-up is as follows:

Bihar—1  
Hyderabad—4  
Madras—2  
U.P.—2  
West Bengal—2  
Madhya Pradesh—2  
Bombay—2.

Under the present scheme, the State Governments are required to sponsor the names of the scholars and they are also required to pay up to 50 per cent. of the total amount of these scholarships—50 per cent. by the Centre and 50 per cent. by the State.

**Shri Sadhan Gupta:** May I know on what basis the amount of stipend is fixed?

**Dr. M. M. Das:** I want notice of the question.

## SOVIET ACCOUNTS IN INDIAN BANKS

**\*434. Shri Nageshwar Prasad Sinha:** Will the Minister of Finance be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Soviet Union has opened accounts in Indian Banks as envisaged in Article VI of the Indo-Soviet Trade Agreement; and

(b) if so, in which Banks and when?

**The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Finance (Shri B. R. Bhagat):** (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Accounts have been opened in the following Banks:

(1) Imperial Bank of India  
Calcutta—In February, 1954.

(2) Bank of China, Calcutta—  
In March, 1954.

(3) United Commercial Bank  
Ltd., Calcutta—In May, 1954.

These accounts are in addition to the accounts which the State Bank of the U.S.S.R. have been maintaining with the Reserve Bank of India, Bombay, and Loyds Bank Ltd., Bombay and Delhi, since before the conclusion of the Indo-Soviet Trade Agreement.

**Shri Nageshwar Prasad Sinha:** May I venture to know whether the amounts deposited in these banks will be used only for promotion of trade and for no other purposes?

**Shri B. R. Bhagat:** In the Trade Agreement the details of the subjects of payment have been published, and