

(b) Several areas in this region have been given or prospecting licence or mining lease to the Assam Oil Company which have been conducting considerable prospecting and drilling operations for many years. There are some productive wells near Digboi and an oil refinery at that place.

#### MINERALS IN ASSAM

\*1398. **Shri Beli Ram Das:** Will the Minister of Natural Resources and Scientific Research be pleased to state:

(a) whether any attempt was made to find out minerals like gold, iron, monazites, etc. in the State of Assam;

(b) if so, with what results; and

(c) how much money was spent in surveying the areas?

The Minister of Education and Natural Resources and Scientific Research (Maulana Azad): (a) The Director, Geological Survey of India, reports that no attempt has been made in recent years to investigate the occurrences of gold, iron, monazite, etc. in the State of Assam.

(b) and (c). Do not arise.

#### EXPORT DUTY ON JUTE

\*1399. **Shri A. C. Guha:** Will the Minister of Finance be pleased to state:

(a) the total revenue collected as export duty on jute and jute goods during the years 1947 to 1951 both years inclusive;

(b) the share given to West Bengal during these years; and

(c) the basis on which Bengal's share was calculated before 1946 and the basis on which it is being calculated now?

The Minister of Finance (Shri C. D. Deshmukh): (a) The total net revenue collected as export duty on jute and jute goods was:

1947-48 (Post-partition)...Rs. 6.41 crores;

1948-49...Rs. 7.15 crores;

1949-50...Rs. 9.68 crores;

and in 1950-51 and 1951-52, when the duty ceased to be shareable with States, the gross collections were roughly Rs. 26.12 crores and Rs. 59.33 crores respectively.

(b) The share given to West Bengal was:

1947-48 (Post-partition)...Rs. 56.22 lakhs;

1948-49...Rs. 64.89 lakhs;

1949-50...Rs. 82.44 lakhs;

and in subsequent years the duty was not shareable with West Bengal or any other State Government.

(c) Before partition 62½ per cent. of the annual net proceeds of export duty on jute or jute products was shareable with the jute growing States, including Bengal, in proportion to the average production of raw jute in the five preceding calendar years in each State. Thereafter and upto the commencement of the present Constitution in 1950-51, the shareable amount of the net proceeds was taken at 20 per cent. From 1950-51, the export duty on jute or jute products ceased to be shareable with West Bengal or any other State Government but annual grants-in-aid in lieu of share of export duty on jute are paid to the States of West Bengal, Assam, Bihar and Orissa under Article 273 of the Constitution. The amount of grants-in-aid thus paid to West Bengal during each of the years 1950-51 and 1951-52 was Rs. 105 lakhs and the amount payable during 1952-53 has been provisionally taken at the same figure subject to revision on the basis of the final recommendation of the Finance Commission.

#### CENTRALISED AGENCY

\*1400. **Ch. Raghbir Singh:** Will the Minister of Law be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a centralised agency has been set up to co-ordinate the work on various constitutional questions between the Central and State Governments; and

(b) if so, whether there is any State which does not accede to this agency and why?

The Minister of Law and Minority Affairs (Shri Biswas): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

#### FOREIGN SCHOLARSHIPS FOR U. P.

\*1401. **Ch. Raghbir Singh:** Will the Minister of Education be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that some foreign scholarships were granted by the Government of India to students in U.P. in the year 1951-52; and

(b) if so, how many?

The Minister of Education and Natural Resources and Scientific Research (Maulana Azad): (a) and (b). Except for two awards under the