

India inherited after the war and the sale proceeds later on either in retail or wholesale prices?

**Shri Gopaldaswami:** I can give the purchases from 1948-49 onwards. I am afraid I have not got the figure of the value of what was in stock at that time.

**Shri Badshah Gupta:** What are the main articles of import? Are they available in India or not?

**Shri Gopaldaswami:** As I said the articles are of a great variety. The number of items was something like 2,431. Most of the grocery articles and various other things required by the troops are now purchased in India. 2,006 out of 2,431 articles are purchased in India.

#### LIQUIDATION OF BANKS

\*558. **Shri A. C. Guha:** Will the Minister of Finance be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have taken any decision regarding the appointment of a Committee for amending the procedure for the liquidation of Banks; and

(b) if so, the personnel and the terms of reference, of that Committee?

**The Minister of Finance (Shri C. D. Deshmukh):** (a) and (b). The attention of the hon. Member is drawn to the reply given by me to his last supplementary question asked in connection with his starred question No. 80 on the 21st May 1952.

**Shri A. C. Guha:** Since then has not the hon. Minister anything more to add?

**Shri C. D. Deshmukh:** Except that the scope, personnel and terms of reference of the proposed Committee are expected to be finalised very shortly.

**Shri A. C. Guha:** May I know if the terms of reference will also include looking into any acts of *mala fide* or misfeasance on the part of the ex-managing directors and tracing their share of responsibility for the failure of the bank?

**Shri C. D. Deshmukh:** No, Sir. The tentative terms of reference which I have here do not include that particular term, because this is more of a procedural matter.

**Shri A. C. Guha:** Will it also include anything about economising the legal cost of the liquidators?

**Mr. Speaker:** He is anticipating...

**Shri A. C. Guha:** I only want to know what would be the terms of reference.

**Shri C. D. Deshmukh:** He is indirectly making suggestions.

**Mr. Speaker:** That is a better form of putting the implication of his question.

**Shri Nambiar:** What further steps have been taken to inquire into the large number of liquidation of banks? On a previous reference to this matter the hon. Minister promised that something will be done. May I know if anything has been done?

**Shri C. D. Deshmukh:** Whenever a scheduled bank goes into liquidation usually there is an enquiry made by the Reserve Bank and indeed the affairs of such a bank are likely to be under observation for some time even before liquidation and it is as a result of this large number of failures that we are now considering the question of the appointment of a committee.

**Shri A. C. Guha:** The hon. Minister spoke of tentative terms of reference: may I know what they are?

**Shri C. D. Deshmukh:** I do not see any advantage in giving out what we are considering in a departmental way, so to speak, that is to say, before we have finally made up our mind as to the precise terms of reference. If the hon. Member will hold his soul in patience for a little longer he will have the final terms of reference.

**Shri A. C. Guha:** I have been holding it for the last three years.

**Mr. Speaker:** Next question.

#### SULPHUR

\*559. **Dr. M. M. Das:** Will the Minister of Natural Resources and Scientific Research be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have carried out any survey for the location of Sulphur containing material other than gypsum;

(b) if so, what is the result of such a survey;

(c) whether any experiment has been carried out for the commercial extraction of Sulphur from Pyrites; and

(d) if so, what is the result of the experiment?

**The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Education and Natural Resources and Scientific Research (Shri K. D. Malaviya):** (a) to (d). A

note giving the information required is placed on the Table of the House. [See Appendix III, annexure No. 34.]

**Dr. M. M. Das:** So far as the statement is concerned it does not reply to parts (c) and (d) of my question.

**Shri K. D. Malaviya:** The statement does indicate that pyrites is supplied to a few firms for extraction of sulphur or sulphuric acid.

**Dr. M. M. Das:** May I know whether pyrites was supplied to these firms to carry out experiments on an experimental basis or on a commercial basis? I want to know whether the experiments carried out go to establish the fact that extraction of sulphur or the manufacture of sulphuric acid from Indian sources is a commercial proposition. That was my question.

**Shri K. D. Malaviya:** Obviously. The ore has been supplied to firms on commercial basis. Recently an agreement was proposed to a Calcutta firm and we are still awaiting their reply. This firm has been supplying pyrites to others for extraction of sulphuric acid or sulphur.

**Dr. M. M. Das:** I want to know whether the proposition that sulphuric acid can be manufactured from Indian sources such as pyrites, without the help of imported sulphur, has already been established by experiments.

**Shri K. D. Malaviya:** No, Sir, Government are not in a position to say that sulphuric acid can be extracted from Indian pyrites commercially. But we have supplied the ore to firms for the extraction of sulphuric acid and we presume they must be doing some business out of this.

**Shri Meghnad Saha:** Will Government consider the advisability of referring this question to the National Chemical Laboratory for a thorough investigation?

**Shri K. D. Malaviya:** We shall certainly do it.

**Mr. Speaker:** He is making a suggestion.

**Dr. M. M. Das:** May I know whether any calculation has been made to compare the cost of production of sulphuric acid from Indian sources, such as pyrites, and from imported sulphur?

**Shri K. D. Malaviya:** As I said, the Government are just entering into an agreement with a Calcutta firm for

greater working of the ore and it is for the firm to let us know whether sulphuric acid or sulphur can be extracted from it on commercial basis.

#### SCHOLARSHIPS UNDER THE COLOMBO PLAN

\*560. **Dr. Ram Subhag Singh:** Will the Minister of Finance be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government of India have asked the Government of Bihar to recommend names for scholarship provided under the Colombo Plan and Point Four Programme for specialized training in engineering; and

(b) if so, whether the Government of Bihar have recommended any names?

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

(b) No, Sir.

**Dr. Ram Subhag Singh:** How many scholarships were provided for Bihar under the Colombo Plan and how many under the Point Four Programme which the Government of Bihar could not take advantage of?

**Shri C. D. Deshmukh:** They were all asked to make recommendations. No special allotment was indicated to the States. I did not quite get the point of the question.

**Mr. Speaker:** He means that Government of Bihar must have made their recommendation. Were they accepted cent. per cent.; if not, what percentage?

**Shri C. D. Deshmukh:** My answer is that Bihar made no recommendation.

**Dr. Ram Subhag Singh:** How many recommendations were they asked to make?

**Shri C. D. Deshmukh:** No State was limited to any particular number. A circular in general terms was sent to all the States.

श्री एस० एन० दास : क्या यह बात सही नहीं है कि बिहार गवर्नमेंट के पास इस सम्बन्ध में सिफारिशें करने के लिए जो पत्र भेजा गया वह इतनी देर से भेजा गया कि बिहार गवर्नमेंट के पास उसका जवाब देने के लिए बहुत कम समय था और इसलिए वह उसका जवाब नहीं दे सकी।