

The Minister of Education and Natural Resources and Scientific Research (Maulana Azad): (a) Yes.

(b) Six Professors from abroad are working in the Institute. Their subjects are:—

(i) Civil Engineering (Concrete Technology).

(ii) Hydraulics and Dam construction.

(iii) Mechanical Engineering.

(iv) Architecture and Town Planning.

(v) Marine Engineering and Naval Architecture.

(vi) Workshop Technology.

CONTRIBUTION OF ASSAM

***570. Shrimati Khongmen:** (a) Will the Minister of Finance be pleased to state the amount of money contributed by Assam State to the centre annually out of its income from Tea and Petrol?

(b) What is the total amount of money given to Assam for the year 1951 and the proposed grant to be given for the year 1952?

The Minister of State for Finance (Shri Tyagi): (a) No amount of money is contributed by the Assam State to the Centre. I presume the hon. Member is referring to realisations by the Central Government of Excise and Export duties on Tea and Central Excise duty on Motor Spirit. The realisations in Assam on account of excise duty were as follows in 1951-52.

Excise Duty (Rs.)

Tea . . . 2,59,54,000 (The figures for Tea are provisional).

Motor Spirit . . . 1,40,75,000 . . .

Export duties which are collected at ports cannot be related to the products of any particular State, so that it is not possible to say accurately what part of such duties is attributable to products of the State of Assam.

No export duty is leviable on Motor Spirit.

(b) No portion of the Central Excise or Export duties, as such, is payable to any of the State Governments in respect of Tea or Motor Spirit. I, however, place on the Table of the House a statement showing the Central assistance provided to

Assam in 1951-52. [See Appendix III, annexure No. 38].

Proposals regarding Central assistance in 1952-53 are still under consideration.

DECIMALISATION OF COINAGE

***571. Shri H. N. Mukerjee:** Will the Minister of Finance be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Provisional Government of India in 1947 had given a public assurance that legislation for the decimalisation of coinage, weights and measures was intended to be rapidly passed;

(b) whether it is a fact that a special committee appointed by the Government of India had unanimously recommended early adoption of decimal coinage and the metric system of weights and measures; and

(c) what action has been taken or is proposed to be taken, by Government in regard to this matter?

The Minister of Finance (Shri C. D. Deshmukh): (a) I am not aware of any such assurance having been given by the Provisional Government of India. The Bill providing for decimalisation of coinage, which was introduced in the Legislative Assembly in February 1946, was allowed to lapse, as no progress could be made before the partition of India.

(b) No Committee was appointed by the Government of India to consider the question of decimalisation of coinage. In 1949 the Indian Standards Institution appointed a special committee on weights and measures. The Committee expressed itself in favour of the introduction of metric system of weights and measures by stages. The Committee also recommended the adoption of decimalised currency to preside the introduction of metric system of weights and measures.

(c) On the question of introduction of metric system of weights and measures, I would invite the attention of the hon. Member to the reply given on the 18th September, 1951, by the hon. Minister of Commerce and Industry to Starred Question No. 257 by Shri Kesava Rao. As regards decimal coinage, the Government of India consider that an enormous amount of preparation will have to be undertaken both by the Central and the State Governments before this could be introduced and this will impose a severe strain on the administrative machinery. It will also