

Shri Namdhari: Will the hon. Minister of Education be pleased to appoint another committee for testing the standards of education of the Harijan students to know if they are able to qualify.....

Mr. Speaker: Order, order. The question is rather too long.

Shri Nana Dass: May I know, Sir, the maximum and minimum amounts of scholarships—individual scholarships—granted to Harijans?

Shri K. D. Malaviya: I have not got those specific figures with me.

Shri Barman: May I know whether the recommendation of the Scholarship Board of the 16th May that the sum of 17.5 lakhs be increased to 25 lakhs has been received by Government and if so, whether they are prepared to accept that recommendation?

Shri K. D. Malaviya: I would require notice of that.

Shri S. C. Samanta: May I know whether the Scholarship Board attached to the Education Ministry has recommended granting of more amount in scholarships to individuals?

Shri K. D. Malaviya: There is no such recommendation.

Shri Balakrishnan: May I know whether these scholarships are given only to the matriculates?

Shri K. D. Malaviya: Yes.

Shri Balakrishnan: May I know whether the Government will consider the desirability of giving scholarships to high schools' students?

Shri K. D. Malaviya: Yes, but it is a mere suggestion of hon. Member.

EXCISE STAFF IN COTTON TEXTILE MILLS

*864. **Shri S. G. Parikh:** Will the Minister of Finance be pleased to state what is the total expenses incurred by the Government by way of salaries to the officers and the staff as well as the establishment charges of excise staff posted at the various cotton textile mills in India?

The Minister of State for Finance (Shri Tyagi): The total expenses incurred by Government by way of salaries, dearness allowances and the like on the officials employed for the purpose of excise supervision at the various cotton textile mills in India are approximately Rupees 20 lakhs (Twenty lakhs) per annum.

Shri S. G. Parikh: Is there any possibility of saving some amount by adopting some other methods?

Shri Tyagi: Sir, according to the original proposal about staff, we were desired to have 864 inspectors. The strength was revised with a view to minimise the expenditure and sanction was given only for 633 inspectors. But actually we are at present employing only 249 inspectors and further investigation is being made to see if there is any possibility of reduction of staff. If my friend can suggest us something, I shall personally be obliged to him.

Shri S. G. Parikh: 3½ per cent. duty was levied previously by the British Government. If the same method is adopted, will it suit the Government?

Shri Tyagi: It is very difficult to discuss the previous duty without my being able to study both the situations. But for the information of the House I may just say that at present while we are receiving excise duty worth 17 crores from textile mills, our expenditure is hardly 20 lakhs. So the ratio of expenses comes to 1.2 per cent. I think that is quite low. But further investigation shall be made and as I said if the textile mill owners can suggest some economy to me, provided the Government revenues do not suffer, I will look into the matter.

Mr. Speaker: Next question.

ASSISTANCE FROM U.S.A.

*865. **Prof. Agarwal:** Will the Minister of Finance be pleased to state:

(a) how much assistance from the United States Government has been received so far in connection with the recent Indo-U.S. Technical Co-operation Agreement;

(b) whether it is a fact that a substantial part of this aid will be received in the form of artificial fertilizers; and

(c) if so, whether it is necessary to import these fertilizers in view of the production in the Sindri factory?

The Minister of Finance (Shri C. D. Deshmukh): (a) Under the recent Indo-American Technical Co-operation Agreement the Government of the United States of America has agreed to contribute \$50 million to the Indo-American Technical Co-operation Fund during the United States fiscal year ending 30th June, 1952. Eleven Operational Agreements in terms of the general agreement covering supply of goods worth \$50 million, have been signed but no supply has actually been received.

(b) Out of the total of \$50 million, \$10.6 million would be in the form of fertilizers.