

Shri K. D. Malaviya: This matter has entirely been left to the State Governments and it is they who are in the best position to tell us what is being done in this regard.

Shri S. N. Das: May I know whether the Government have taken any steps to implement the recommendation of the University Commission regarding the starting of a Central Institute of Physical Education?

Shri K. D. Malaviya: Government have so far taken no steps in that direction.

Shri T. S. A. Chettiar: May I know when such grants are given whether they are given on the recommendation of the State Governments or whether they are given direct?

Shri K. D. Malaviya: Previously the Government of India used to give these grants not on the recommendations of the State Governments but direct, but now the policy is to leave all this work to the States.

Dr. P. S. Deshmukh: May I know what is the total amount spent on this item by the Government of India?

Shri K. D. Malaviya: The total amount spent in 1951-52 is Rs. 26,800.

Shri M. D. Ramaswami: May I know the considerations and conditions on the basis of which grants are made to these institutions?

Shri K. D. Malaviya: There is no specific condition which has been before us.

Shri S. N. Das: May I know whether there are any schemes which the Government are following regarding this physical education?

Shri K. D. Malaviya: As I said, the schemes are for the State Governments to frame.

URANIUM AND THORIUM DEPOSITS

*2162. **Dr. Ram Subhag Singh:** Will the Minister of Natural Resources and Scientific Research be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is true that deposits of uranium and thorium ores have been found in certain parts of the Madras State?

(b) if so, in which parts of Madras these ores have been found?

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

Stray specimens of Uranium bearing minerals have been found from some old abandoned workings of mica mines in Madras State. These, however, are not of the nature of workable deposits.

Dr. Ram Subhag Singh: May I know how Government propose to exploit these uranium and thorium ores?

Shri K. D. Malaviya: Government are already doing it in Travancore-Cochin and mostly they utilise the black sand of Travancore-Cochin for the exploitation of uranium.

Dr. Ram Subhag Singh: May I know whether the uranium and thorium ores are exported to any foreign countries from India?

Shri K. D. Malaviya: No, Sir.

Shri V. P. Nayar: Are there foreign scientists helping in the investigation of thorium and uranium deposits?

The Minister of Education and Natural Resources and Scientific Research (Maulana Azad): No.

Jonab Amjad Ali: May I know whether all the possibilities of exploiting these two valuable minerals have been exhausted in the State of Mysore?

The Prime Minister (Shri Jawaharlal Nehru): No, Sir. There are still enormous possibilities to be explored all over the country.

Sardar Hukam Singh: Have we got any factory to produce compounds of these rare minerals?

Shri Jawaharlal Nehru: Yes. In Travancore there is a factory which is just starting the processing of monozite.

Dr. Ram Subhag Singh: May I know whether monozite sands are still exported to foreign countries?

Shri Jawaharlal Nehru: No, Sir. Most of these minerals are not normally allowed for export, but some parts are exported by special arrangements when we get something of value in return for them.

Dr. Ram Subhag Singh: To which country is this sand exported by special arrangements and what do we get in return?

Shri Jawaharlal Nehru: I could not immediately answer that question, but actually arrangements exist with France for sending certain rare ores. A small quantity is, I think, sent to the United States for experimental purposes and there is an arrangement also with the United Kingdom, I think.

Dr. Ram Subhag Singh: May I know, Sir, what if any do we get in return from the United States of America?

Mr. Speaker: I think it is no use going into that question.

WEST BENGAL BANKS

***2163. Shri A. C. Guha:** Will the Minister of Finance be pleased to state:

(a) if there has been any approach to the Reserve Bank of India from scheduled and Co-operative Banks of West Bengal to allow them discounting facilities as regards loans to tea gardens under Section 17 of the Reserve Bank Act;

(b) if so, what decision has been arrived at in the matter?

The Minister of State for Finance (Shri Tyagi): (a) No scheduled or Co-operative bank in West Bengal has so far approached the Reserve Bank for rediscounting facilities under Section 17 of the Reserve Bank of India Act for the specific purpose of providing finance to tea gardens.

(b) Does not arise.

Shri A. C. Guha: Is the Government aware that some foreign banks are lending money on the hypothecation of standing tea crops?

Shri Tyagi: I have no information just now in my pad, but I might say that the European companies generally do not want any finance from the banks here. Probably, they may be having finance from banks outside.

Shri A. C. Guha: The hon. Minister said that no scheduled or co-operative banks have approached the Reserve Bank. May I know if there has been any approach from any other quarter to the Reserve Bank for financing the standing tea crops?

Shri Tyagi: No, Sir. On the other hand, offers were made to the tea industry that they could contact the banks for financial facilities.

Shri A. C. Guha: May I know whether after the amendment of the Reserve Bank Act a sort of enquiry was started by the Government for the financing of tea crops, and if so, what has been the result of that enquiry?

Shri Tyagi: In response to a question put here by Mr. U. N. Barman, the Reserve Bank of India was requested to depute some officer and they deputed one. According to the report of that officer, the European-owned tea gardens represent about 80 per cent.

of the total Indian tea industry and it is only the remaining 20 per cent. of the industry that is owned by Indians. The European section of the industry is not experiencing any special financial difficulties, but to 90 per cent. of the Indian-owned gardens also do not experience much difficulty in obtaining short-term finance from banks. Only 10 per cent. of the total number of Indian tea gardens, principally small proprietary gardens in Assam, are reported to have experienced difficulties in raising finance, but the reason is not so much the lack of banking finance as that of the fact that these small gardens are too small to function as economic units and as such banks do not consider it a good banking risk to make large advances to them.

Shri A. C. Guha: Since there is at present a crisis in the tea industry, may I know whether since this enquiry there has been any change in the situation as regards Indian-owned tea gardens?

Shri Tyagi: I have no information about the change, but I may add for the information of the hon. Member that the Reserve Bank of India could not render any direct assistance to the tea gardens for the purpose of tea financing. The only facility lying within the present scope of the Act is the rediscounting of bills by scheduled and co-operative banks provided the bills bear signatures. The Reserve Bank's decision to extend re-discounting facilities to scheduled and co-operative banks in respect of letters of credit and loans to tea gardens was brought to the notice of the Central Tea Board by the Ministry of Commerce and Industry in May last, but so far no scheduled or co-operative bank in West Bengal has availed of that facility for financing tea gardens.

Shri A. C. Guha: May I know whether the committee that was going into this matter last month has made any recommendation in this respect?

Shri Tyagi: An enquiry committee was sent from here to Assam, South India and Kangra valley tea gardens and they have submitted their report. It is still under consideration and it is too premature for me to comment on the report.

Shri K. P. Tripathi: Is the Government aware that owing to the curtailment of financial facilities some of the Assam tea gardens have threatened to serve notices on labourers?

Shri Tyagi: I am afraid I could not make out what "curtailment of financial facilities" means.