

Shri A. P. Jain: The Government of West Bengal is asking for loans from time to time and they are also being given.

Shri N. C. Chatterjee: What is the total assistance they require?

Shri A. P. Jain: Their schemes come from time to time and it is difficult to say what will be the total for the year.

HIMALAYAN EXPEDITIONS

*826. **Shri P. T. Chacko:** Will the Prime Minister be pleased to state:

(a) the number of Himalayan Expeditions which took place during 1951-52;

(b) the highest point reached so far, and by whom; and

(c) whether Government have given any encouragement to foreign expeditions?

The Deputy Minister of External Affairs (Shri Anil K. Chanda): (a) In addition to the Expeditions mentioned in replies to the Starred questions Nos. 1451 and 2094 answered in the House of People on the 1st October, 1951, and 24th July, 1952, respectively, the following further expeditions set out in the autumn of 1952:—

(i) The Oxford University Expedition to visit the area South and South West of Gangotari.

(ii) British Expedition to Gauri Shankar in Nepal.

(iii) Japanese Expedition to Nepal.

(iv) Italian Expedition of Professor Tucci to Nepal.

(v) Swiss Expedition to Mount Everest in Nepal (Second visit).

(b) Government have no information.

(c) Exemption from payment of customs duty was granted in respect of the equipment imported by the expeditions, subject to the condition that it was re-exported from India within a specified period.

Shri P. T. Chacko: May I know whether any Indian has applied for governmental help to organise another expedition?

Shri Anil K. Chanda: No, Sir, not to our information.

Shri Bopavarahammy: What is the number of deaths that occurred in the expeditions during 1951 to 1952?

Shri Anil K. Chanda: We have no official information.

IRRIGATION AND POWER PROJECTS (STUDIES IN FOREIGN COUNTRIES)

*627. **Shri V. P. Nayar:** Will the Minister of Irrigation and Power be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of engineers and technicians who have been sent for studies and conferences on Irrigation and Electrical Engineering and multi-purpose projects to U.S.A. and U.K. in 1950, 1951 and 1952; and

(b) whether any person has been sent by Government to the U.S.S.R. to study the irrigation and hydro-power development there and if so, how many?

The Deputy Minister of Irrigation and Power (Shri Hathi): (a) 69 excluding the deputationists from two State Governments. Informations from these two Governments is awaited and will be placed on the Table of the House, as soon as it is received.

(b) None

Shri V. P. Nayar: May I know what is the total amount spent on students and conferences held in the United States and United Kingdom?

Shri Hathi: The amount spent on conferences is about Rs. 6000 only. So far as the amount spent on students is concerned, it is a question for collecting information from the State Governments and figures are being collected.

Shri V. P. Nayar: May I know whether it is due to any political considerations that no student has so far been sent to the U.S.S.R.?

Shri Hathi: No.

Shri V. P. Nayar: In view of the fact that the Volga-Don Projects have proved to be the best in the world, may I know whether Government have taken any steps to send engineering students to U.S.S.R. to study the scheme?

Shri Hathi: We have no official information yet. I may add that there is no bilateral agreement between this country and the country referred to by hon. Member and therefore no trainee is sent there.

Shri T. N. Singh: May I know, out of the engineers sent abroad, how many of them belong to the CWINC organisation and how many to other organisations?

Shri Hathi: The number of engineers belonging to the CWINC organisation is fourteen and the total number is sixty-nine.

Pandit Lingaraj Misra: Is it a fact that the USSR refused to co-operate, in the Technical Assistance Programme of the United Nations?

Shri Hathi: So far as I know, they are not contributing to that program me.

Shri P. T. Chacko: May I know why no student is sent to Equador?

INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON ASIAN PROBLEMS

*828. **Shri S. N. Das:** Will the Prime Minister be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that an International Conference on Asian Problems was held recently in New York;

(b) whether India had any hand in the sponsoring of this Conference;

(c) whether, and, if so, in which way, India was associated with this Conference; and

(d) what were the problems discussed and decisions taken in the Conference?

The Deputy Minister of External Affairs (Shri Anil K. Chanda): (a) Yes.

(b) No.

(c) India, as such, was not represented, but some Indians in America were associated with this conference.

(d) The problems discussed at the conference included colonialism, status of women in Asia, youth movements in Asia, educational problems and reforms, rehabilitation and technical assistance, foreign trade and investments, cultural affairs, etc.

Shri S. N. Das: May I know, Sir, whether colonial Powers having colonies in Asia participated in the conference?

Shri Anil K. Chanda: It was an unofficial conference and no official was connected with the conference.

Shri S. N. Das: Who were the sponsors of the conference?

Shri Anil K. Chanda: The Asian Institute of United States.

Shrimati A. Kale: May I know why India was not represented on the status of women?

Shri Anil K. Chanda: We have not been invited to this conference.

Shri S. N. Das: May I know, Sir, the constitution of that Institute? Whether any countries of Asia are represented in that Institute?

Shri Anil K. Chanda: I have no information about the constitution of that Institute.

Shri B. S. Murthy: May I know whether any invitation has been extended to the Government of India and why the Government of India have not responded to it?

The Prime Minister and Minister of External Affairs (Shri Jawaharlal Nehru): I do not understand when some private individuals start an Institute or hold a conference, what the Government of India or any Government has got to do with it.

STATE TRADING

*829. **Pandit Munishwar Datt Upadhyay:** (a) Will the Minister of Commerce and Industry be pleased to state what were the commodities in which a kind of State Trading was adopted as of necessity during the war time?

(b) What are the commodities in which a kind of State Trading is still carried on and with what results?

(c) What are the conditions and circumstances in which State Trading is made applicable to a particular commodity by Government?

(d) What is the reason for gradual withdrawal of State Trading from certain commodities in recent years?

The Minister of Commerce and Industry (Shri T. T. Krishnamachari):

(a) A list is laid on the Table of the House. [See Appendix V, annexure No. 2.]

(b) Some kind of State Trading is still carried on in Steel, foodgrains and fertilisers other than Superphosphates. The results are considered satisfactory.

(c) Whenever an essential article is in scarce supply and Government consider that equitable distribution at reasonable prices cannot be otherwise arranged.

(d) As and when the emergency ceases to exist.

Pandit Munishwar Datt Upadhyay: May I know whether this scheme