

Dr. P. S. Deshmukh: They were not influenced in any way by the research outside. They depend upon their own research investigations.

Sardar Hukam Singh: Who were the Members? Any foreign experts?

Dr. P. S. Deshmukh: I have not got the information to answer here.

TREASURY CONTRACTOR OF POST OFFICE

*878. **Pandit Munishwar Datt Upadhyay:** (a) Will the Minister of Communications be pleased to state what action has been taken against the agent of the Treasury Contractor of the Post Office, who did not deposit Government money to the extent of Rs. 1,03,500/- between September 1948 to January 1950?

(b) Which officials of the post office and the Imperial Bank have been found involved in the above case?

(c) What action has been taken against the Post Master and other officials involved?

(d) Is there any chance of any portion of Government money being recovered?

The Deputy Minister of Communications (Shri Raj Bahadur): (a) The agent is being tried by a Special Court at Allahabad.

(b) The Supervisor of the Accounts Branch and the Accountant of the Post Office are suspected of criminal acts and are being tried in a Court of Law. Two officials who had held charge as Postmasters were found guilty of negligence in their duties. No official of the Imperial Bank is criminally involved.

(c) The Supervisor and the Accountant mentioned in (b) above are under suspension. One of the Postmasters has been reverted and the question of reducing the pension of the other, who has since retired, is under consideration. Action against other delinquent officials will be taken after the judicial proceedings are over.

(d) Yes.

Pandit Munishwar Datt Upadhyay: May I know what amount has been recovered?

Shri Raj Bahadur: According to the terms of the contract, the contractors have got to make a deposit of 20 per cent. It comes to Rs. 33,500 in this case which has been forfeited and according to the contract, the contractor is bound to indemnify Government to the full extent. We are trying to realise the balance.

Pandit Munishwar Datt Upadhyay: May I know whether this was due to non-existence of rules on this point or non-observance of them?

Shri Raj Bahadur: Not on account of non-existence of rules but on account of laxity in observance of the rules.

Pandit Munishwar Datt Upadhyay: May I know whether the rules are up to the mark?

Shri Raj Bahadur: The efficacy of rules in order to prevent the occurrence of such incidents is always under review from time to time and re-consideration will be done after the result of the trial is known.

Pandit Munishwar Datt Upadhyay: May I know whether there is any relation between the amount of security and the amount of money that these people are allowed to handle?

Shri Raj Bahadur: 20 per cent. of the average daily amount handled in the post office.

Shri S. N. Das: May I know whether, as a result of the enquiry made by the Department, any official entrusted with the duty of supervising was found negligent?

Shri Raj Bahadur: I have already replied to this question. That is in the main reply.

Shri M. L. Dwivedi: How long has the question been pending?

Shri Raj Bahadur: It came to light round about April 1949 and it was entrusted to the Special Police Establishment for investigation. Now the case is before the special court.

CHINESE GIFTS TO INDIA

*879. **Shri S. N. Das:** Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to state:

(a) whether some Chinese gifts for relief of the distressed in India were received and subsequently returned;

(b) if so, the circumstances which led to the return of the said gifts; and

(c) what was the source of the gift?

The Deputy Minister of Food and Agriculture (Shri M. V. Krishnappa): (a) to (c). On the 19th August 1952 the Bank of China, Calcutta, informed the Indian Red Cross Society, Delhi, that a sum of Rs. 4,21,940 had been received by them for the Indian Red Cross Society from the People's Relief Administration of China, Red Cross Society of China, All-China Democratic