

THE
PARLIAMENTARY DEBATES
(Part I—Questions and Answers)
OFFICIAL REPORT

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HOUSE OF THE PEOPLE

Thursday, 11th December, 1952

The House met at a Quarter Past
Eight of the Clock.

[MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER in the Chair]

ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS
IMPERIAL WAR GRAVES COMMISSION

*1102. **Sardar Hukam Singh:** (a) Will the Minister of Defence be pleased to state whether the India, Pakistan and South East Asia District of the Imperial War Graves Commission has completed its work of concentration of war graves of World War II?

(b) What is the number of graves concentrated in various cemeteries?

The Deputy Minister of Defence (Sardar Majithia): (a) Yes, except—

(i) concentration of 299 War Graves from different cemeteries at Madras cemetery; and

(ii) concentration of casualties from isolated aeroplane crashes and from late battle areas, if found at a later date.

(b) A statement is laid on the Table of the House. [See Appendix VI, annexure No. 47]

Sardar Hukam Singh: Is there any special objective in the concentration of these graves? Is any monument going to be erected, or what is going to be done?

Sardar Majithia: Yes, Sir, it is correct. Various memorials are constructed.

Sardar Hukam Singh: Is it the intention of the Government to take care of those graves of soldiers also who died in foreign countries?

Sardar Majithia: Yes, Sir. Memorials are constructed for all those who had
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no known graves or who were cremated and who died in non-occupation areas.

Sardar Hukam Singh: I wanted to know whether our Government intends to take care of those graves as well which are in foreign countries where our soldiers died?

Sardar Majithia: There is an Imperial War Graves Commission which takes care of those graves.

Sardar Hukam Singh: May I know whether we have entered into any agreement with any of those countries where our soldiers have died, about taking care of these graves?

Sardar Majithia: Those graves are taken care of, and we have got no reason to feel that they will not be looked after.

Sardar Hukam Singh: Are those who died in air crashes and whose bodies were brought here include civilians?

Sardar Majithia: About civilians, I have got no information at the moment. I shall let the hon. Member know about it.

बाबू रामनारायण सिंह : उपाध्यक्ष महोदय, कब्रों किस तरह से इकट्ठी की जाती हैं ?

सरदार मजीठिया : जैसे ही सकती हैं।

बाबू रामनारायण सिंह : उपाध्यक्ष महोदय, यह तो कोई जकाब नहीं मिला, यह कहते हैं कि जैसे हो सकती हैं।

उपाध्यक्ष महोदय : नमूना बनायें ?

Shri Dabhi: May we know whether the Hindu soldiers who were killed in the war, were all buried?

Sardar Majithia: They were cremated. It is only in stray cases where no differentiation could be made, that they might have been buried.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: Too much anxiety over graves. There has been enough about these graves.

SUPPLY OF RADIOS ETC. BY UNESCO

*1103. **Sardar Hukam Singh:** (a) Will the Minister of Education be pleased to state whether the UNESCO has supplied any radio and classroom equipment to the secondary schools or any other associations in India during the year 1952?

(b) What are the societies and institutions that have received educational equipment during this period?

The Deputy Minister of Natural Resources and Scientific Research (Shri K. D. Malaviya): (a) Yes.

(b) A statement is placed on the Table of the House. [See Appendix VI, annexure No. 48]

Sardar Hukam Singh: May I know whether it is the UNESCO alone or its agency here that decides the particular associations to which these gifts are to be given, or is it left to the Government of India?

Shri K. D. Malaviya: The needs are surveyed by the UNESCO and they take all steps to distribute the supplies.

Sardar Hukam Singh: I was not understood. I want to know whether in granting these gifts, the UNESCO has any agency to decide what associations are to be selected, or is it left to our Government to decide what associations shall be benefited by these grants?

Shri K. D. Malaviya: The UNESCO make their own arrangements to find out the requirements of institutions of member States. When these are known to them, they take suitable steps to appeal to their own member States to collect these supplies, and supply them to the member States.

Shri B. S. Murthy: What is the agency in India which distributes these radios to the schools on behalf of the UNESCO?

Shri K. D. Malaviya: There is an Executive Board of the UNESCO and this Executive Board collects all the

information and makes arrangements for distribution.

Shri B. S. Murthy: My question is not answered. What is the agency in India on behalf of the UNESCO which distributes these radios to various schools?

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: They have got an Executive Committee and they choose their agencies. That is what he says.

Shri B. S. Murthy: In India?

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: Yes.

Sardar Hukam Singh: May I know whether any of our representatives are associated with that body?

Shri K. D. Malaviya: I am not aware of it.

Shri Punnoose: The Minister stated that there is an agency for the UNESCO here. Are they collecting information through State Governments, or approaching institutions direct?

Shri K. D. Malaviya: These international organisations are generally always approaching through the Government.

Shri Dabhi: May we know the total value of the gifts?

Shri K. D. Malaviya: There are three schemes under which these supplies are made: One is the UNESCO Gift Committee, secondly the UNESCO Reconstruction Fund, and the third is the Norwegian Committee fund. There are different values under these schemes. Under the UNESCO Gift Committee scheme, the value is roughly about Rs. 60,000. Under the second, viz., the UNESCO Reconstruction Fund, so far photographic paper film costing £110 have been supplied. In regard to the third, the Norwegian Committee Fund has distributed gifts costing about 11,355 dollars.

Sardar Hukam Singh: In 1951/52, the only institution that got this benefit of cash gifts was the Jamaat-e-Islami, and £14,000 was given to that institution. Was it on the recommendation of the Government of India, or did they do it of their own accord?

Shri K. D. Malaviya: Besides the Jamaat-e-Islami, the Degree College of Almora also got the help or the gift. I do not know the exact recommendations made or specific amounts.

Sardar Hukam Singh: What was the amount given to the second institution, may I know?