

twenty-four or twelve monthly instalments according as the Government servant concerned is a permanent or a temporary Government servant. Adequate security is demanded in the case of temporary Government servants and motor cars purchased with the help of an advance are to be insured and mortgaged to Government.

Shri V. P. Nayar: Is it not a fact that with Rs. 175 a reasonably well-equipped bicycle cannot be bought now?

Shri B. R. Bhagat: I think it can be bought.

Shri V. P. Nayar: Does the hon. Minister know the current prices of standard makes of bicycles?

Mr. Speaker: The point seems to be that only an advance is made for the purchase. The employee may supplement it by his own resources.

Shri V. P. Nayar: Then, may I ask whether, in view of the fact that the amount now advanced is not enough for purchasing a standard bicycle, and in view of the lack of adequate resources in the hands of the employees to supplement the advance, Government will consider increasing the advance?

Mr. Speaker: I do not think I should allow this question. It is a suggestion for action.

Shri Damodara Menon: When advances are made to Government servants for the purchase of cars, is there any condition that they must buy only cars made in India?

Shri B. R. Bhagat: No such condition is imposed.

The Minister of Revenue and Expenditure (Shri Tyagi): There is no such condition, but then cars not manufactured in India are generally not allowed to be imported into India and there is a heavy duty. Therefore, they have perforce to purchase cars which are manufactured in India.

Shri Altekari: May I know the rate of interest that is charged on this advance?

Shri Tyagi: The rate is between 3 and 3½ per cent.

Shri Nanadas: Shri Buchhikotiah has given me authority. Shall I put question 227?

Mr. Speaker: Is it in writing?

Shri Nanadas: Yes.

Mr. Speaker: He may pass it on to the Secretary. It will be taken up at the end.

COLOMBO PLAN

*228. **Dr. Rama Rao:** (a) Will the Minister of Finance be pleased to state whether a number of Indian students are being sent to Britain under the Colombo Plan?

(b) If so, what are the main terms of the agreement according to which these students are being sent?

(c) Have any students been already selected under this scheme; if so, what are their qualifications?

(d) Where are these students expected to study and what subjects will they specialise in?

(e) What are the financial commitments of the Government of India and the Government of U.K. respectively, towards the implementation of this scheme?

(f) With what type of work will these students be entrusted after their return?

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Finance (Shri B. R. Bhagat): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The students are being sent to the United Kingdom under the Technical Cooperation Scheme of the Colombo Plan, copies of which were laid on the Table of the House on the 28th November, 1950. Technical assistance under the Scheme is being provided on a bilateral basis between the two Governments.

(c) Yes, Sir; the candidates selected were those already in employment and had the necessary technical qualifications pertaining to their positions.

(d) The students would study in a field for which they were selected for training in the United Kingdom. These are mainly in Agriculture, communications, public health and medicine, irrigation and power, coal mining, industry and specialised fields of labour.

(e) According to the Technical Cooperation Scheme, all costs of training in the country providing the training and passage both ways are met by that country. The Government of India or the sponsoring authority has to bear inland cost on transportation and their salaries.

(f) The persons sent abroad for training will come back to their jobs.

Dr. Rama Rao: May I know the method and machinery for selecting these candidates?

Shri B. R. Bhagat: They are selected by the Department concerned. The names are sent by the State Governments and the various other organisations, and they are finally selected by a Board here in the Government of India.

Dr. Rama Rao: Am I to understand that there is a Selection Board in the Government of India?

Shri B. R. Bhagat: I have not got the name of the Board. I want notice.

The Minister of Revenue and Expenditure (Shri Tyagi): In each Ministry, a Selection Board consisting of officers is appointed and whenever any applications are received pertaining to a Ministry, that Ministry considers them in its own Board.

Shri Meghnad Saha: Does the Selection Board consist of experts or only of Government servants?

Shri B. R. Bhagat: I have not got the personnel of the Board here—I cannot say.

Mr. Speaker: He wants to know the position generally.

Shri B. R. Bhagat: Generally Government servants.

Shri Damodara Menon: Does the Selection Board conduct any competitive examination before selection?

Shri B. R. Bhagat: No competitive examination is conducted.

Shri H. N. Mukerjee: I find from a brochure supplied to us last session that the technical cooperation scheme under the Colombo Plan is administered by a Council composed of representatives of the participating Governments. Do I take it that this Council has anything to do with the selection, as far as these people are concerned?

Shri B. R. Bhagat: No, Sir.

Dr. Rama Rao: May I know whether Government are contemplating sending any people for training in industrial engineering and technology?

Shri B. R. Bhagat: Yes, it is one of the subjects.

FOREIGNERS IN PRISON

***229. Shri Jajwara:** Will the Minister of Home Affairs be pleased to state:

(a) how many foreigners are in prison or detained in India at present; and

(b) whether it is the intention of the Government of India to release them and if so, by what time and on what ground?

The Deputy Minister of Home Affairs (Shri Datar): (a) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House in due course.

(b) No foreigner has been detained by order of the Government of India, so the question of release does not arise. In regard to convicted prisoners the Government of India have no intention of exercising any special clemency.

Shri Jajwara: How long will it take for the information to be collected?

Shri Datar: About two months.

MILITARY STORES

***230. Shri A. N. Vidyalkar:** Will the Minister of Defence be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have made any efforts to replenish their military stores with home-made materials;

(b) the percentage of India's self-sufficiency in military equipments and stores in the years of 1945, 1947, 1951 and 1952; and

(c) whether Government have formulated any plan by which the production and supply of home-made war material would be speeded up?

The Minister of Information and Broadcasting (Dr. Keskar): (a) and (c) Yes. A Committee called the "Imported Stores Screening Committee" was set up by the Ministry of Defence in January 1949 with representatives of the civil Ministries concerned and the three Services to provide a machinery for the continuous examination of items of Defence stores which should be obtained by imports and by indigenous production respectively, and for the initiation of indigenous production, wherever possible. Every attempt is made to initiate production of new items in the Government Factories and through the trade in India.