

Shri Meghnad Saha: May I know whether the Ministry of N.R. & S.R. has been able to form a team of Indian experts provided with all kinds of modern apparatus, e.g. magnetographs and seismographs to do oil prospecting work and whether they depend upon purely foreign prospecting? Is it not a fact that the foreign prospecting parties do not allow the Indian experts to go near the apparatus or to have access to the results they have obtained?

Shri K. D. Malaviya: We are in the process of forming a purely Indian team for undertaking all the work involved in the oil prospecting. So far as the allegation of my friend is concerned, it is not wholly correct.

Shri Meghnad Saha: May I know how far it is correct?

Shri K. D. Malaviya: I do not know that, but complaints have been received by us that in some cases certain types of information are not made available to us.

Shri T. N. Singh: Of the prospecting that is being done, geophysical and magnometric, how many are under foreign control or foreign direction and guidance, and how many are purely under the Indian Geological Survey Department?

Shri K. D. Malaviya: I have said that in Jaisalmer area and also in Jwalamukhi and Kangra Valley, the Geological Survey of India are undertaking all the survey work by themselves. So far as the prospecting in Assam is concerned, an agreement has been arrived at between the Government of India and the foreign oil companies, and the foreign experts are helping us.

Shri Meghnad Saha: In view of the fact that foreign experts do not make their results available to Indians, and do not allow the Indians to have access to their results, is it not desirable to turn out the foreign experts altogether and depend upon our own native talent which I am quite sure will be able to cope up with this work?

Shri K. D. Malaviya: I have not accepted the insinuation of the hon. Member.

Educational Qualifications

*133. **Shri Bibhuti Mishra:** Will the Minister of Education be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Committee appointed to examine the question as to how far and at what levels the possession of a University Degree is necessary for recruitment to Public Services, has submitted any interim report and

(b) if so, what are the main recommendations given in the interim report?

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Education (Dr. M. M. Das): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

श्री बिभूति मिश्र : क्या सरकार निर्धारित पदों के लिये निर्धारित योग्यता रखने वालों के लिये कोई आगे नियम बनायेगी ?

शिक्षा उपमंत्री (डा० के० एन० श्रीमाली) : मुझे मालूम नहीं कि सदस्य महोदय का मतलब क्या है। परन्तु अगर वह कमेटी की जो टर्म्स आफ रेफरेंस हैं उनको जानना चाहते हैं तो वह मैं उन को बताने को तैयार हूँ।

Shri S. N. Das: May I know whether any time-limit has been fixed?

Dr. K. L. Shrimali: Yes, Sir. The Committee is expected to submit its report by the 31st August, 1955.

Shri Kamath: Has the Prime Minister been correctly reported recently as saying that university degrees should not be essential for recruitment to Public Services?

Dr. K. L. Shrimali: The whole question is being examined by this Committee.

Research Scholarships in Humanities

*134. **Shri Subodh Hasda:** Will the Minister of Education be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a Special Committee has been set up to consider the question of awarding Research Scholarships in Humanities; and

(b) if so, the nature of its main recommendations?

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Education (Dr. M. M. Das): (a) Not yet.

(b) Does not arise.

Shri Subodh Hasda: May I know the number of students that applied and the number selected?

Dr. M. M. Das: In the first batch in the year 1953, there were 500 applicants and out of these 500, 31 students were selected for this scholarship. In the second batch, in 1954, 51 were selected out of a total number of 192 applicants.

Shri Subodh Hasda : May I know whether Government had any data for assessment?

Dr. M. M. Das : The original question is about the Reviewing Committee. This Committee could not be set up. The reasons are these. The first batch was selected but they joined their work late in the year.

The second batch of candidates who were selected could not join their work before April 1955. So, it was decided to continue the scheme during the current year also and the review of the scheme was postponed by one year.

Shri Subodh Hasda : May I know whether the Government propose to send scholars abroad?

Dr. M. M. Das : There are different schemes under which scholars are sent abroad.

Shri A. P. Sinha : 136.

Mr. Speaker : The Hon. Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Education.

Shri Heda : Shri K. G. Deshmukh is absent.

Mr. Speaker : I was just wandering as to why he sat there because he was sitting usually on this side. I could not see clearly from here when he stood up there. We will take it last.

Pensions

*136. **Shri K. P. Sinha :** Will the Minister of Finance be pleased to state the reasons that have led the Government of India to enter into an agreement with the Government of U. K. to transfer to the latter the responsibility for paying pensions and other liabilities of persons who had served the British Crown in India?

The Minister of Finance (Shri C. D. Deshmukh) : It was considered convenient both from the administrative and financial point of view to transfer the liability for these pensions to the United Kingdom authorities as these payments have mostly to be made in the United Kingdom to non-Indians recruited under conditions which did not envisage the developments leading to independence and funds for financing these payments had already been transferred in effect to the United Kingdom authorities as part of the Sterling Balances Settlement in 1948. The bulk of the pensions were being paid by the Commonwealth Relations Office to which India was making a contribution. The arrangement saves India the expenditure on the disbursement of these pensions which amounted to about Rs. 10 lakhs a year.

Shri K. P. Sinha : May I know the capital value of these pensions and how this figure was arrived at?

Shri C. D. Deshmukh : The capital value was arrived at the time of the 1948 settlement; not now. It was part of the 1948 sterling balance settlements. It was Rs. 224 crores and this sum was handed over to the United Kingdom Government against which they were due to pay the pensions from 1948-49 to 2007-08 A.D.

Shri S. N. Das : May I know whether, in the agreement that has been quoted, any safeguards had been made with a view to stopping or curtailing the amount of pension if any pensioner acts against the interest of India.

Shri C. D. Deshmukh : No; it was not considered necessary to insert such a safeguard.

Mr. Speaker : It is an old story :

Rani Lakshmbai's Palace

*137. **Shri Bhagwat Jha Azad :** Will the Minister of Education be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to take over the palace of Rani Lakshmbai situated at Jhansi; and

(b) whether Government also propose to renovate the works of Art and Paintings therein?

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Education (Dr. M. M. Das) : (a) and (b). Yes, Sir.

Shri Bhagwat Jha Azad : Do Government propose to take up other such palaces of historical importance for the purpose of preservation?

Dr. M. M. Das : It is not a solitary example; there are other historical monuments, palaces, archaeological sites and monuments also which Government propose to take over.

श्री धुलेकर : झांसी का महल कब ले लिया जायेगा ? इस प्रपोजल को तीन साल हो चुके हैं ।

Dr. M. M. Das : The facts are as follows. This palace of the Raniji of Jhansi is now occupied by the U. P. Government and the Jhansi town police station is located there. We wrote to the U. P. Government and the U. P. Government have very kindly agreed to vacate the palace in the early part of next year—1956. As soon as the U. P. police vacates the palace we can take possession of this palace.