

(b) if so, the nature of services rendered in detail ?

The Minister of Defence (Dr. Katju) :

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) A statement is laid on the Table of the House. [See Appendix I, Annexure No. 28].

Shri L. N. Mishra : The statement does not give any idea of the number of armed forces employed and the days for which they worked for the relief operations. May I have any idea about this aspect ?

Dr. Katju : I should like to have notice.

Shri L. N. Mishra : May I know whether our armed forces, besides rendering physical help to the people, did contribute any material help to the flood sufferers ?

Dr. Katju : I have fully stated the facts, the material facts, in the statement which I have placed. As to any other information, I do not possess it just now.

Shri L. N. Mishra : Are there any....

Defence Stores

*117. **Shri Jhulan Sinha :** Will the Minister of Defence be pleased to state :

(a) whether the question of having covered accommodation for Defence Stores has been fully examined in the background of losses sustained annually due to their exposure to inclement weather ; and

(b) if so, whether any decision has been taken in the light of data thus obtained ?

The Minister of Defence Organisation (Shri Tyagi) : (a) Yes.

(b) Yes. It has been decided to provide temporary coverage (prefabricated sheds) for the present day holdings of stores and vehicles and also to try to provide as far as possible permanent accommodation for the normal peacetime requirements of these equipments.

Expenditure on Cablegrams

*118. **Dr. Suresh Chandra :** Will the Minister of Education be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that an officer of the Ministry spent Rs. 6,000 on two cables sent to India from Montevideo in South America ; and

(b) if so, the reasons for sending such costly cables ?

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Education (Dr. M. M. Das) : (a) The amount was spent on the cables sent on behalf of the Indian delegation.

(b) As the services of news agencies were inadequate, the only way to keep the Government informed about and give publicity to the activities of the Delegation was through cables.

Dr. Suresh Chandra : May I know why the press telegrams were not sent, and such a huge amount was spent on sending special cables from Montevideo ? Where was the necessity for spending such a huge amount on cablegrams ?

Dr. M. M. Das : The leader of the Indian delegation to the UNESCO General Conference in Montevideo was Dr. Radhakrishnan. He was outgoing President of the General Conference, of UNESCO, and the Indian delegation played a very important part in that conference. So, in the absence of satisfactory arrangements for sending news to this country, it was thought proper by the delegation to send the news by special cables.

Dr. Suresh Chandra : My question has not been answered. It is true that Dr. Radhakrishnan was the leader of the delegation. I do not deny the importance of the conference also, but I want to know why press telegrams were not sent and special cables were sent for a huge amount. That is my question.

The Deputy Minister of Education (Dr. K. L. Shrimali) : The reason was that press and news agency services were not satisfactory at the place where the conference was held, and it was considered in the interests of the country that proper publicity should be given for the work done by our delegation.

Dr. Suresh Chandra : The other delegations from time to time used press telegrams and their speeches also were publicised. Then, Sir, only half of the amount spent on the telegrams which were sent was used for the speech of the leader of our delegation. I want to know why the other Rs. 3,000 were spent by the officer.

Dr. K. L. Shrimali : I am afraid I cannot give the details of the expenditure, but I have already explained the general position. I would also like to inform the hon. Member that the delegation considered the whole matter very carefully and tried to keep the expenditure to the minimum, and it was considered in the interests of the country that proper publicity should be given to the work which was done by our delegation in the international conference.

Dr. Suresh Chandra : Sir,...

Scholarships to Backward Classes

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

(a) whether it is a fact that in