

than that given to the State loans issued from time to time and that it is one of the reasons why the amount received by way of small savings is small?

Shri A. C. Guha : I do not think that his conclusion is correct. In this financial year, we expect to collect Rs. 65 crores, and I think the rate of interest compares favourably with that of other loans. The cumulative rate of interest should be $4\frac{1}{2}$ per cent or $4\frac{1}{6}$ per cent in some cases, and that again is income-tax free, whereas the interest on Government loans, State or Central, is not income-tax free.

Shri U.M. Trivedi : May I know if this new scheme which has been formulated for having this progressive approach to this national savings scheme is to the exclusion of members of particular parties from being appointed as agents?

Shri A. C. Guha : There is nothing like that. It is not done on the party basis at all.

Shri N. B. Chowdhury : May I know in what manner the panchayats and union boards are required to help this small savings scheme in the rural areas?

Shri A. C. Guha : The panchayats and the union boards particularly in West Bengal can engage authorised agents on a very low security, and then they can collect the money. That scheme is being worked in West Bengal for the last two years.

श्रीमती कमलम्बुमती झाह : क्या मैं जान सकती हूँ कि इस सिलसिले में स्त्रियों की सेवायें भी ली जायेंगी ?

Shri A. C. Guha : I do not quite follow the question.

Mr. Speaker Are you taking the assistance of ladies in this matter?

Shri A. C. Guha : There is a Central Advisory Board for women's campaign.

Mr. Speaker : Separately?

Shri A. C. Guha : Yes.

Shri A. M. Thomas : May I enquire whether the Government has got any scheme to utilise the hundreds of post offices in our country for mobilising the small savings?

Shri A. C. Guha : Generally this money is being deposited in post offices. Most of this money is being deposited in the post offices. This scheme is carried out in collaboration with the post offices.

SELF-LOADING RIFLES

*1019. **Sardar Iqbal Singh :** Will the Minister of Defence be pleased to refer to the reply given to Starred Question No. 576 on the 6th December, 1955 and state:

(a) whether Government have arrived at any decision so far on the question of introducing self-loading rifles in the Armed Forces; and

(b) if so, the decision taken there on?

The Minister of Defence Organisation (Shri Tyagi) : (a) and (b) : The proposal to introduce a self-loading rifle in the Armed Forces is still under consideration.

Sardar Iqbal Singh : May I know how far this matter is under consideration and how far this matter will have to wait for a final decision of the Government on this matter?

Shri Tyagi : There is no intention of introducing the self-loading rifle immediately, for, the Government have got a lot of stores of the rifles which have been manufactured and which are at present in use. If this self-loading rifle is immediately introduced, all that stock will go to waste and they cannot be wasteg

Sardar Iqbal Singh : May I know whether any experiment has been conducted for the self-loading rifle by the Scientific Advisor of the Indian Army, and if so, what are the results of that experiment?

Shri Tyagi : Some rifles of this type have been introduced here from foreign countries and they are undergoing experimentation.

Sardar Iqbal Singh : May I know whether the Government is aware of the fact that the striking power of the Indian Army is very low, when compared to the other Armies, without the introduction of this automatic rifle?

Shri Tyagi : I do not think it is so.

Shri Feroze Gandhi : May I know the difference between a self-loading rifle and a rifle which takes a magazine?

Shri Tyagi : It is beyond me. I am afraid it is not possible for me to explain the technique.

Shri Syamnandan Sahaya : May I know if the Government have considered the desirability of stating publicly information about what weapons they are using, what weapons they are not using and what weapons they have in stock?

Shri Tyagi : I do not think there is any harm in giving that information. The rifles that we are using are publicly known practically to everybody.

Shri U. C. Patnaik : May I know whether the Government has taken notice of the fact that Pakistan is using .5 Browning rifles as against our .303s which are far less effective?

Shri Tyagi : I am sorry I have no information about the rifle that Pakistan is using. It must be with the Ministry. I have no ready information to give.

Shri U. C. Patnaik : May I know how far our Government have advanced in the manufacture of rifles of .5 boring?

Shri Tyagi : Very far.

Sardar Iqbal Singh : May I know whether it is a fact that all the advanced countries of the world such as Russia, America, Japan and also Pakistan have introduced automatic rifles in their armies, and if so, may I know whether the Government of India have taken any decision in that case before taking a decision in this?

Shri Tyagi : It is not only rifles. There are a number of small arms

which are in use. Therefore, it is not considered a matter of urgency to introduce automatic loading rifles.

UPGRADING OF AGRA CITY FOR ALLOWANCE PURPOSES

***1020. Shri Gidwani :** Will the Minister of Finance be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have recently considered the question of upgrading Agra to 'B' Class for purposes of allowances; and

(b) if so, their decision thereon?

The Minister of Revenue and Civil Expenditure (Shri M. C. Shah) : (a) No. Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

Shri Gidwani : Has the attention of the Government been drawn to an item of news published in the *Times of India*, Delhi Edition, dated 25-2-56, from Agra to the effect that 10,000 Central Government employees made a demonstration there demanding upgrading of Agra?

Shri M. C. Shah : I do not know about it.

Shri Gidwani : May I know whether the Government will make enquiries whether there was any such demonstration, and if so, what was the demand of the Central Government employees?

Shri M. C. Shah : I do not think we should enquire into all those items that appear in the press. If a representation is made, it should be made to the Government of India. Government of India will consider it.

Shri Gidwani : Am I to understand that Government have received no representation?

Mr. Speaker : Otherwise he would have said so.

Shri T. B. Vittal Rao : May I know whether the population of Agra City, Cantonment and the suburban areas is more than 5 lakhs and those cities which have a population of more than 5 lakhs automatically come under this class?