

Shri Biren Dutt: May I know whether the members of the Advisory Council of Tripura came to Delhi to discuss about the starvation cases with the Home Minister?

Shri Datar: I am not personally aware of this.

Shri Biren Dutt: May I know whether the statement issued by the Advisory Council of Tripura regarding the food situation there and the starvation cases occurring in the villages, particularly hill areas, has been brought to the notice of the Central Government by the Government of Tripura?

Shri Datar: I am not aware of any such statement. But the hon. Member will see that we are giving extensive aid as explained in the statement placed before the House.

Shrimati Renu Chakravartty: When the Advisory Council arrives at a particular decision, may I know whether such decisions or opinions are forwarded to the Central Government so that it may be aware of those opinions?

Shri Datar: What I said was this. I am not aware if the Advisory Council came to Delhi. So far as the general question is concerned, it is true that whenever the Council gives an opinion it is considered with great respect and followed as far as possible.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: She wanted to know if its views are forwarded to the Central Government.

Shri Datar: When it is considered that matters of policy are involved, they are sent to us; otherwise the Chief Commissioner takes action.

Shri Biren Dutt: Has any arrangement been made to enrol people who are willing to work in the affected areas?

Shri Datar: On all such occasions, I may generally say, the help of the non-official organisations is taken.

Buddha Jayanti

***92. Shri Krishnacharya Joshi:** Will the Minister of Education be pleased to state the total number of foreign dignitaries who attended the 2500th *Buddha Jayanti* celebrations in India on Government invitations?

The Deputy Minister of Education (Dr. M. M. Das): In connection with the celebrations organized by the Government of India in Delhi on 23rd and 24th May, 1956, invitations were issued to 176 persons from the foreign Missions. About 40 acceptances were received for the Foundation-Stone laying Ceremony of the Commemorative Monument, held on the 23rd May, and about 70 for the Public

Meeting on the 24th. It is presumed that those who communicated their acceptance, attended the celebrations.

No invitations to any persons from outside India were extended.

Shri Krishnacharya Joshi: May I know the total expenditure incurred on this celebration?

Dr. M. M. Das: For the foundation-stone laying ceremony, the total expenditure was Rs. 1885-2-3- and the expenditure for the public meeting on the 24th was Rs. 4186-10-3, in addition to the expenditure incurred by the Delhi Municipality.

Shri Krishnacharya Joshi: How many foreign dignitaries will be invited to the celebration in November next?

Dr. M. M. Das: The list has not yet been finalised.

Shri Telkikar: May I know the names of places where Buddha Jayanti was celebrated in India?

Dr. M. M. Das: Sir, Speaking from memory, I might say that we have issued instructions to all the States Governments to hold Buddha Jayanti celebrations.

Oil Exploration

***93. Shri M. L. Agrawal:** Will the Minister of Natural Resources and Scientific Research be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that science graduates have been recruited for short course training in Geophysical methods of Oil Exploration;

(b) if so, how many;

(c) by whom and how they have been selected; and

(d) the terms of their employment?

The Minister of Natural Resources (Shri K. D. Malaviya): (a) to (d). 77 posts of apprentice Geophysicists in the Oil and Natural Gas Directorate have been advertised through the Union Public Service Commission which is carrying on interviews. The selected candidates will receive training for a period of 4 months. On successful completion of their training, the candidates will be appointed Geophysicists Junior in the scale of Rs. 350—850 p.m. in the Oil and Natural Gas Directorate. During the period of their training, the apprentices will be paid a stipend of Rs. 250/- per mensem.

Shri M. L. Agrawal: May I know where the training will be held?

Shri K. D. Malaviya: The training will be held in a school to be started in Calcutta within a few days.