

The Deputy Minister of Education (Dr. M. M. Das): (a) A statement giving the requisite information is laid on the Table of the Lok Sabha. [See Appendix III, annexure No. 19].

(b) The questionnaire has not yet been circulated to State Governments.

Taj Mahal

***413. Shri Anirudha Sinha:** Will the Minister of Education be pleased to state:

(a) whether the attention of Government has been drawn to the press reports that an ancient manuscript in Persian containing a day-to-day account of the building of the Taj Mahal is said to be in the possession of one of the 40 hereditary "Khadims" still working at Agra;

(b) if so, whether Government have got the document examined; and

(c) whether Government propose to acquire it?

The Deputy Minister of Education (Dr. M. M. Das): (a) to (c). Government have seen certain newspaper reports to this effect, but enquiries made so far failed to locate such a manuscript or determine the person in whose possession it is.

Primary School Teachers, U.P.

***414. Shri M. L. Agrawal:** Will the Minister of Education be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have sent a directive to the U.P. Government to enhance the salaries of their Primary School teachers; and

(b) if so, whether the U.P. Government have reacted to the directive?

The Deputy Minister of Education (Dr. M. M. Das): (a) Yes, Sir. A circular letter was sent to all the State Governments including the Government of U.P.

(b) Yes, Sir.

Mathematical Congress

***416. Shri Amjad Ali:** Will the Minister of Natural Resources and Scientific Research be pleased to state:

(a) whether India was represented in the Mathematical Congress held in Moscow on the 23rd June, 1956; and

(b) how many other countries participated in the Congress?

The Minister of Natural Resources (Shri K. D. Malaviya): (a) and (b). The Government of India did not depute any representative to attend the Congress. Information as to whether any Indian attended the Congress and how many countries participated in the Congress is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Floods in Assam and Bihar

***419. Shri Jethalal Joshi:** Will the Minister of Home Affairs be pleased to state:

(a) the number of persons affected by the recent floods in Bihar and Assam; and

(b) the measures taken by Central Government so far for the relief of the distressed in the recent heavy floods in Bihar and Assam?

The Minister in the Ministry of Home Affairs (Shri Datar): (a)—

Bihar—10,01,397

Assam—1,29,020.

(b) The State Governments are eligible to a Central grant of half the total expenditure on gratuitous relief up to Rs.2 crores and three-fourths of expenditure in excess thereof.

22,045 tons of rice and 12,861 tons of wheat have been supplied to the Bihar Government for sale at concessional rates.

Anti-Corruption Measures in Travancore-Cochin

***424. Dr. Rama Rao:** Will the Minister of Home Affairs be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Special Inspector-General of Police (Anti-corruption) of Travancore-Cochin State has been vested with necessary authority to deal promptly with complaints of bribery, corruption and criminal mis-conduct against public servants;

(b) if so, the details of the new powers so vested;

(c) what is the progress of the work since then; and

(d) the major complaints of corruption that are now under investigation and the stage they have reached?

The Minister in the Ministry of Home Affairs (Shri Datar): (a) Yes.

(b) The Special Inspector General of Police (Anti-corruption) has been vested with powers to investigate complaints of corruption against public servants without prior reference to the Government, and the office of the Deputy Inspector General of Police (Anti-corruption) has been notified as a Police Station under the Cr. P. C. with jurisdiction over the entire State of Travancore-Cochin, to enable prompt cognisance of complaints.

(c) and (d). The attention of the hon. Member is invited to my answer to-day to Starred question No. 399. It is not in public interest to furnish particulars of the complaints and the present stage of investigation.