

(d) the estimated cost of the programme covering all school children; and

(e) whether Government propose to implement the programme on a national scale?

The Minister of Education (Dr. K. L. Shrimali): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c). The information as at the end of 1960-61 is given in the statement laid on the Table. [See Appendix III, annexure No. 1]. The information as at the end of 1961-62 is being collected from the State Governments and will be laid on the Table of the House. Proposals to extend the programme in Andhra Pradesh, Mysore, Madhya Pradesh and Rajasthan are under consideration.

(d) and (e). The School Health Committee has recommended a nationwide extension of the programme of midday meals. These recommendations, along with their financial implications, are now being examined by Government.

Royalty on Minerals

*955. **Shri Vidya Charan Shukla:** Will the Minister of Steel and Heavy Industries be pleased to state:

(a) whether the difference of opinion between the Central Government and the Government of Madhya Pradesh on the royalty to be charged on the minerals mined by Bhilai Steel Works has been settled; and

(b) if so, the salient features of the settlement?

The Minister of Steel and Heavy Industries (Shri C. Subramaniam): (a) The issue regarding payment of royalty to Madhya Pradesh Government on minerals used by the Bhilai Steel Works is still under consideration.

(b) Does not arise.

Regional Research Laboratory, Jammu

*956. **Shri Bishanchander Seth:** Will the Minister of Scientific Research and Cultural Affairs be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a new variety of Mint (*Mentha arvensis*) has been produced as a result of genetical experiments carried out at the Regional Research Laboratory, Jammu;

(b) if so, the essential yield of the new variety; and

(c) whether this variety will have some effect on our import policy?

The Minister of Scientific Research and Cultural Affairs (Shri Humayun Kabir): (a) Yes, Sir, on a laboratory experimental scale.

(b) Oil content of leaves is over 5 per cent on moisture free basis.

(c) Experiments will have to be carried out on large scale and the cultivation of the plant propagated on big acreage before it can directly influence import policy.

Exemption from Income Tax

*957. **Shrimati Renu Chakravartty:** Will the Minister of Finance be pleased to state:

(a) whether gratuities paid to staff in commercial offices will henceforth be exempted from income-tax; and

(b) if not, whether this proposal is being considered?

The Deputy Minister in the Ministry of Finance (Shri B. R. Bhagat): (a) Yes, Sir, subject to certain limits prescribed in Section 10(10) of the Income-tax Act, 1961.

(b) Does not arise.