

Shrimati A. Kale: Is the Government aware that in the Bombay Child Welfare Conference, a doctor from Calcutta has given the figure of the blind people to the tune of 20 lakhs? Is it a true figure?

Shri Datar: I might invite the attention of the hon. Member to the fact that in Whittaker's Almanac in 1952 the figure has been given for blind persons as 20 lakhs. That figure is entirely wrong. In view of the fact that according to the 1931 census in India, there were only 6 lakhs of blind people, it is almost impossible to believe that in the course of about 20 years, the number has increased from 6 to 20 lakhs?

Shrimati A. Kale: Would the hon. Minister repudiate that figure?

Shri Datar: The answer given is itself a repudiation.

Shri Namdhari: Does this number include those anti-social elements which are mentally blind?

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: Order, order. Next question.

SILVER REFINERY

*1105. **Dr. Ram Subhag Singh:** Will the Minister of Finance be pleased to state

(a) when the silver refinery in Calcutta is expected to come into existence; and

(b) whether it is a fact that electrolytic copper will also be produced in that refinery as a by-product?

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Finance (Shri B. R. Bhagat): (a) The silver refinery at Calcutta is expected to start functioning by the end of 1954-55.

(b) Yes, Sir.

Dr. Ram Subhag Singh: May I know what would be the estimated cost for setting up that refinery?

Shri B. R. Bhagat: It is about Rs. 88 lakhs.

Dr. Ram Subhag Singh: May I know whether this silver refinery will also be used for extracting silver from quaternary coins?

Shri B. R. Bhagat: It is specially for that purpose.

Dr. Ram Subhag Singh: What quantity of silver is expected to be extracted from this refinery?

Shri B. R. Bhagat: About 250 million ounces of refined silver.

Dr. Ram Subhag Singh: If I remember right, in reply to a question by Mr. Tyagi where the refined silver will be kept, Dr. John Mathai replied that it will be kept by the Government. May I know whether that policy is still followed?

Shri B. R. Bhagat: The policy is being followed. But we have an obligation to pay silver to the United States of America, for what we got under the Lend-Lease Agreement during the war, and I think that does not apply to this case.

Dr. Ram Subhag Singh: How much of silver do we owe to the United States?

Shri B. R. Bhagat: 226 million ounces of silver.

Dr. Ram Subhag Singh: What part of the liability falls on Pakistan?

Shri B. R. Bhagat: Pakistan's liability is about 53 million ounces.

Sardar Hukam Singh: May I know whether any special officer has been despatched to foreign countries for negotiations on the purchase of the machinery and plant for this refinery?

Shri B. R. Bhagat: Yes.

Sardar Hukam Singh: Which country is it?

Shri B. R. Bhagat: Germany.

Sardar Hukam Singh: Was there any special necessity for sending a special officer to that country, instead of negotiating and finalising the purchase through our delegation which is there?

Shri B. R. Bhagat: The work being of a very technical nature, it was considered desirable to send a special officer for finalising the specification and designs and particularly so when the special process that is being employed here is cheaper and as a result of these negotiations, the cost per pound of silver extracted is very much less than that which operates in England and other countries.

Sardar Hukam Singh: May I know the expenses incurred by our country in sending this special officer?

Shri B. R. Bhagat: I am afraid I cannot give that figure just now.

Shri B. S. Murthy: May I know whether after the negotiations any agreement has been arrived at, and whether any German expert is coming over here to instal the machinery?

Shri B. R. Bhagat: As I said the refinery will start functioning in 1954-55.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: His question was whether it is expected to have any expert from Germany to set it up.

Shri B. R. Bhagat: The Demag Metallurgical Company of Germany will process the whole thing.

EDUCATIONAL EXPERT FROM U.K.

*1106. **Shri S. N. Das:** (a) Will the Minister of Education be pleased to state whether it is a fact that an Educational Expert is shortly to come from U.K. in response to a request from the Government of India to organise the department of Industrial Management at the Indian Institute of Technology?

(b) If so, what is the scheme for which he is being invited?

The Deputy Minister of Natural Resources and Scientific Research (**Shri K. D. Malaviya**): (a) Yes. Prof. G. A. Robinson, formerly Education Secretary, British Institute of Management, has arrived in India and is working at the Indian Institute of Technology.

(b) The scheme envisages provision of full-time and part-time courses in (i) Industrial Engineering, (ii) Industrial Administration and (iii) Business Management for the training of personnel required by Industry and Commerce. Prof. Robinson will advise how best to organise these courses as also on Refresher Courses in Management Subjects and other aspects of Training for Management.

Shri S. N. Das: May I know when the expert arrived, and whether he has submitted any interim report on the subject?

Shri K. D. Malaviya: He has already arrived in our country, but his report is not yet available to us.

Shri S. N. Das: May I know the total estimated expenditure involved in this scheme?

Shri K. D. Malaviya: We have accepted financial liability for this gentleman who has come. There is no separate scheme, he has offered to advise us.

Shri S. N. Das: May I know whether any provisions exist just at present in any of the Universities, for such industrial management training?

(مہلٹر آف ایجوکیشن اینڈ)

نہچرل ریسورسز اینڈ سائنٹیفک ریسرچ)

مولانا آزاد : جو انسٹیٹیوشن کھڑا پور

میں کھولا گیا ہے - اس کا تعلق صرف

اس سے ہے - اور یونیورسٹیوں سے

نہیں ہے -

The Minister of Education and Natural Resources and Scientific Research (**Maulana Azad**): The Institution opened in Kharagpur is connected with this and no other University.

Shri Nambiar: How much amount is likely to be spent on this expert alone?

Shri K. D. Malaviya: On this expert, we will bear the cost of transportation, lodging expenses, daily allowances and actual cost of travelling.

Shri Nambiar: My question was how much will be spent. We cannot calculate?

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: The travelling expenses etc. can be calculated.

Shri Nambiar: I agree with you.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: But it is impossible to give any figure, if he travels up and down.

Shri B. S. Murthy: May I know whether any portion of this amount is being shared by the industrialists?

Shri K. D. Malaviya: No, Sir.

Babu Ramnarayan Singh rose.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: The hon. Member is too late.

Babu Ramnarayan Singh: I got up first, Sir.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: I did not see.

CASES IN HIGH COURTS

*1107. **Pandit Munishwar Datt Upadhyay:** (a) Will the Minister of Home Affairs be pleased to state what is the number of cases on an average disposed of by each High Court and the Supreme Court per year?

(b) What is the number of cases in arrears at present showing cases over one year old, over two years old, and so on over three, four and five etc., years old?

(c) Has there been increase or decrease in the arrears, since 1948 and in what proportion?

The Deputy Minister of Home Affairs (**Shri Datar**): (a) and (c). A statement giving the relevant information is laid on the Table of the House. [See Appendix VI, annexure No. 49]

(b) Information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Pandit Munishwar Datt Upadhyay: May I know, Sir, in view of the fact that the percentage of arrears in the Supreme Court has increased by 154.2