

have a direct responsibility. The Government of India have accordingly appointed an Expert Committee to investigate generally into the need for establishing new Universities and the conditions, academic, financial and administrative, that should be satisfied before they are brought into being. The Government of India have therefore advised the Madhya Bharat Government to await the report of the Committee before they proceed with legislation for a University in that area.

(d) and (e). A statement is laid on the Table of the House. [See Appendix X, annexure No. 41.]

(f) The Committee is expected to submit its report as soon as possible.

(g) The Central Government are aware that Ujjain has been mentioned as the headquarters of the University in the Madhya Bharat University Bill. As regards the second part, attention is invited to the terms of reference of the Committee which has been laid on the Table of the House.

SCHEDULED CASTES AND TRIBES IN MEDICAL COLLEGE, VISAKHAPATNAM

*1727. **Shri Mohana Rao:** (a) Will the Minister of Education be pleased to state the strength of the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes respectively studying in the Medical College, Visakhapatnam?

(b) Out of them, how many students have been sanctioned Central Scholarships this year?

The Minister of Education and Natural Resources and Scientific Research (Maulana Azad): (a) and (b). The hon. Member's attention is drawn to the statement laid on the Table of the House. [See Appendix X, annexure No. 42.]

REDUCTION OR ABOLITION OF DEARNESS ALLOWANCE

*1728. **Shri Morarka:** Will the Minister of Finance be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government of India are contemplating any reduction or abolition of the dearness allowance of all Government employees drawing more than Rs. 750/- per month; and

(b) if the answer to part (a) above is in the affirmative, how much Government hope to save in the salary bill per year?

The Deputy Minister of Finance (Shri A. C. Guha): (a) Yes.

(b) If the allowance is withdrawn, the saving would be about Rs. 75 lakhs per annum.

SEISMIC CONVULSIONS IN TRAVANCORE-COCHIN

*1729. **Shri P. T. Chacko:** Will the Minister of Natural Resources and Scientific Research be pleased to state:

(a) whether the frequent seismic-convulsions taking place in Travancore-Cochin since January 1953 were recorded in the Seismological Observatories,

(b) whether any damage to bridges, buildings etc. was caused by these convulsions of the surface of the earth; and

(c) whether Government have taken any precautionary measure and in particular, measures connected with the construction of new buildings?

The Minister of Education and Natural Resources and Scientific Research (Maulana Azad): (a) and (c). A statement giving the information required is laid on the Table of the House.

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

STATEMENT

Seismic Convulsions in Travancore-Cochin

(a) The earthquake tremors felt in the Kottayam District on the 25th February 1953 were recorded by the seismographs at the Kodakanal Observatory, which is about 70 miles from the Kottayam town. Other recent tremors were not strong enough to be recorded by the Kodaikanal seismographs. Preliminary tremors on 25th February 1953, arrived Kodaikanal at 2300 hours 38 minutes and 10 seconds I.S.T. and from the Seismograph records the shock is estimated to be of slight intensity, although near its origin it could cause damages locally.

(c) The Director, Geological Survey of India has reported that on receipt of a report about frequent earthquake shocks from the Chairman, Municipal Council Palai on the 31st March 1953, an officer of the Geological Survey of India was deputed to conduct an investigation in cooperation with the meteorological office at Trivandrum. When the nature of the earthquake is known the question of any precautionary measures regarding the construction of building etc. in the localities affected can be considered.