

earthquakes in the next 200 years may be expected to occur.

(b) No methods are known by which occurrences of earthquakes can be prevented.

GOODWILL AND CULTURAL MISSIONS

846. Shri Ibrahim: Will the Minister of Education be pleased to state:

(a) the number of Government sponsored goodwill and cultural missions sent abroad during the year 1953-54;

(b) the amount of expenditure incurred by Government in each case;

(c) the names of the countries visited by them; and

(d) what criteria are followed for sending these cultural and goodwill missions abroad as also in regard to the selection of their personnel?

The Minister of Education and Natural Resources and Scientific Research (Maulana Azad): (a) to (d). The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

LANDS, HIRINGS AND DISPOSALS SERVICE

847. Shri G. P. Sinha: Will the Minister of Defence be pleased to state:

(a) whether an *ad-hoc* Committee has been appointed to settle the large number of unsettled claims outstanding with the Lands, Hirings and Disposals Service, Calcutta, in respect of properties acquired, requisitioned and hired by the Defence Authorities during the last War;

(b) the composition of the above *ad-hoc* Committee;

(c) the number of cases disposed of till now; and

(d) the qualifications of the members of the *ad-hoc* Committee, especially of those who settle the cases of a technical nature involving payments of large sums of money?

The Deputy Minister of Defence (Sardar Majithia): (a) Yes.

(b) The composition of the *ad hoc* Committee is as under:—

(i) A representative of the Ministry of Defence of the rank of Deputy Secretary.

(ii) A representative of the Ministry of Finance (Defence) not lower in rank than an Under Secretary.

(iii) The Director, Lands Hirings and Disposals Service or his representative.

(c) 93.

(d) The Committee is composed of members who have adequate experience in dealing with such matters. They are assisted by technically qualified officers of the Lands; Hirings and Disposals Service.

SCHEDULED CASTES SCHOLARSHIPS

848. Shri B. N. Kureel: Will the Minister of Education be pleased to state the number of students whose scholarships were either cancelled or withheld by the Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes and other Backward Classes Scholarships Board during the years 1952-53 and 1953-54 as a result of the adverse reports against them from the Heads of Institutions and the amount thus saved during the above period?

The Minister of Education and Natural Resources and Scientific Research (Maulana Azad): The second half-yearly instalment of seventy students was discontinued during the years 1952-53 and 1953-54 as they had shown unsatisfactory progress in studies during the first half of the academic year and also failed or did not appear in the annual examination. The money thus saved amounted to Rs. 18,175 which was utilized in awarding scholarships to other candidates belonging to these classes.

SURPLUS MILITARY LANDS

849. Shri G. P. Sinha: Will the Minister of Defence be pleased to state:

(a) the number of surplus military camps, lands, buildings hired or requisitioned and Air fields held on