

23th September, 1955 and state whether any final decision has been taken on West Bengal Government's request for permission to construct a football stadium on a section of the 'Maidan' in Calcutta?

The Deputy Minister of Defence (Shri Raghuramaiah): It has not been possible for the Government of India to agree to the construction of a football stadium on the area suggested by the Government of West Bengal.

Shri H. N. Mukerjee: In view of a move in certain quarters for a composite stadium in the Eden Gardens, which is the property of the Union Government, and the danger of virtually destroying the cricket pitch there, which is one of the finest in the world, will Government tell us that the pitch in Eden Gardens will not be destroyed, especially when there is a football ground for a composite stadium in the maidan or elsewhere?

The Minister of Defence (Shri Krishna Menon): The only pending request before the Government is with regard to that part of the maidan which is called the Ellenborough Grounds—which is popularly called the Polo Ground—and Government are giving consideration to this matter. It is not in a position to accede to the request. There are many informal suggestions about places so far as this particular question is concerned. But, in the view of Government, having regard to the special consideration from its point of view concerning this area of India, it would not be possible to allocate these grounds.

Shri H. N. Mukerjee: May I know if the Minister's attention has been drawn to the opinions expressed by such organisations as the Cricket Control Board in India and the Cricket Association of Bengal, apart from the All India Football Association, regarding the desirability of having a football stadium apart from the Eden Gardens where the cricket pitch is so good?

Shri Krishna Menon: I do not see how it has any reference to this question.

Shri Jaipal Singh: Are we to understand, now that the Ellenborough ground is being considered for a composite stadium, that the dispute between the Union Government and the West Bengal Government in regard to the claim to the Eden gardens has been liquidated?

Shri Krishna Menon: So far as I know there is no dispute; Eden gardens belong to the Government of India.

Shri Jaipal Singh: Has there ever been a dispute over the ownership of Eden gardens? Has there been any claim by the West Bengal Government although hitherto it has been only the agent of the Union Government?

Shri Krishna Menon: I submit that this goes far beyond this question.

Shri T. K. Chaudhuri: What are the reasons that impel the Government to refuse permission to the West Bengal Government to build a stadium there?

Shri Krishna Menon: I have stated the reasons. From the defence point of view, it is not possible.

Desert Research Institutes

*223. **Shri Shankariah:** Will the Minister of Education and Scientific Research be pleased to state:

(a) whether it was decided at the 9th Session of the U.N.E.S.C.O. General Conference held at New Delhi during November-December 1956 that Desert Research Institutes be started and one of them be located in India;

(b) whether any such Institution has been started with the assistance of U.N.E.S.C.O. either in India or elsewhere; and

(c) if not, when is it likely to be started in India and at what place?

The Minister of State in the Ministry of Education and Scientific Research (Dr. K. L. Shrimali): (a) and (b). No Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

I would, however, like to add for the information of the hon. Members that U.N.E.S.C.O. has passed a resolution for the establishment, for a period of six years, of a major project for the improvement and co-ordination of research on problems of arid lands in the regions from the Eastern Mediterranean and Middle East to the South-East Asia, including India.

Shri Shankariah: When are they likely to start it?

Dr. K. L. Shrimali: The research work is already being carried on since 1951. There is an international advisory committee on arid zone research under whose guidance this work is carried on.

Shri Shankariah: May I know whether it has come to the notice of the Government that an institution has started in this region some four months back and what action has been taken thereon?

Dr. K. L. Shrimali: I do not know to which institution the hon. Member is referring.

Shri Shankariah: The Desert Research Institution established as a result of the resolution that has been passed. Out of the five institutions one has been started four months back.

Dr. K. L. Shrimali: I do not know which institution the hon. Member has in mind. There is a Desert and Afforestation Research Station at Jodhpur which is working under this scheme. I do not know whether there is any other institution.

Shri Shankariah: May I know the amount that has been received for this Jodhpur institution as per this resolution?

Dr. K. L. Shrimali: I do not know what help we got during the last few years. But, for this year we have requested the U.N.E.S.C.O. to provide four fellowships.

Primary Education Commission

*224. { **Shri S. M. Banerjee:**
Shri Ram Krishan:

Will the Minister of **Education and Scientific Research** be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have received any memorandum from the All India Primary Teachers' Federation for setting up a Primary Education Commission to go into the conditions of primary education in the country; and

(b) if so, the nature of the decision taken by Government?

The Minister of State in the Ministry of Education and Scientific Research (Dr. K. L. Shrimali): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Government do not consider it necessary to set up a commission on Primary Education.

Shri S. M. Banerjee: May I know whether it is a fact that the Government is appointing a committee to go into the pay structure of the primary school teachers?

Shri K. L. Shrimali: The Government is appointing an All India Council of Elementary Education.

Shri Shree Narayan Das: May I know whether the various Governments' comments have been asked for in this respect and whether they have replied?

Dr. K. L. Shrimali: The Government has got the information that is necessary with regard to the expansion of primary education and no further information is necessary.

Shri B. S. Murthy: In view of the fact that the Centre is giving loans and other aids for increasing the salaries of the primary school teachers, is it not desirable that the Centre should have only one kind of a pay structure in all the different States? In view of that, what is the data before the Government?