

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?

Dr. K. L. Shrimali: The Government has got all the data; it has already taken steps to increase the pay scales of primary school teachers.

Shri Ranga: Does the Government propose to give representation to the State organisations of teachers in this Council?

Dr. K. L. Shrimali: No, Sir. I am saying this offhand. No representation has been given to any organisation as such. There may be State representatives.

Boys' Regiment

*226. **Shri P. G. Deb:** Will the Minister of Defence be pleased to state whether the Government of India has any proposal to start a Boys' Regiment in all the States of India?

The Deputy Minister of Defence (Shri Raghuramaiah): No, Sir.

Shri P. G. Deb: May I know how far training is given to the boys under the NCC scheme and Territorial Army on regular army lines?

Shri Raghuramaiah: That does not relate to this question.

Private Coal Washeries

*227. **Matin, Shri:** Will the Minister of Steel, Mines and Fuel be pleased to state the steps taken by Government to encourage the setting up of private coal washeries?

The Minister of Steel, Mines and Fuel (Sardar Swaran Singh): In the middle of 1955 the Government of India examined, in consultation with the Planning Commission and representatives of the private industry, the possibility of setting up washeries to wash metallurgical coals for the steel plants. As a result of this, offers were received from six firms. These were examined and it was found that only two of them were for washing coals which could be used in the steel plants. Further technical examination showed that the particular coals proposed to be washed were of the

highest grades and it would have made the problem of washing the other grades of coals more difficult. It became clear that, if coals were to be washed effectively and from the point of view of conservation, it was necessary to have large central washeries where coals of different grades could be washed and blended. Such washeries, drawing coals from various collieries, cannot obviously be put up by private industry. The Government of India are, therefore, not pursuing this matter further.

Shri S. C. Samanta: May I know whether the fear of nationalisation on the part of private colliery owners stands in the way of the establishment of such washeries?

Sardar Swaran Singh: I do not think that they are afraid on that score.

Shri Barman: May I know whether the Government has started its own washeries for the purpose of conservation of high grade coal?

Sardar Swaran Singh: I have said so in my reply.

Ministry of Defence Security Corps

*228. **Shri S. M. Banerjee:** Will the Minister of Defence be pleased to state:

(a) the actual expenditure per year incurred on Ministry of Defence Security Corps personnel attached to various defence installations; and

(b) whether this expenditure is also counted towards the overhead charges in the matter of production in Ordnance factories?

The Deputy Minister of Defence (Shri Raghuramaiah): (a) Rs. 105 lakhs approximately in 1955-56.

(b) Yes, Sir. The overhead charges on account of M.D.S.C. attached to Ordnance factories are included in the production cost as fixed charges, which figure in the maximum cost of pro-