

of Tripura has recently been burnt to ashes;

(b) if so, the extent of loss suffered;

(c) whether it is also a fact that the fire broke out in the school twice before and the loss incurred was heavy;

(d) if so, the causes of these fires; and

(e) the remedial measures taken, if any?

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

(b) The exact loss is not yet known but it is estimated to be about Rs. 1,08,917 according to the report of the Headmaster.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) Not known.

(e) Provision for fire fighting equipments is being made and, wherever possible, pucca construction is also being made in place of the existing tarza construction (semi-pucca).

Removal of Government Employees

1959. Shri S. M. Banerjee: Will the Minister of Finance be pleased to state the number of employees in the Finance Ministry and Audit Department charge-sheeted and removed from the service under Service Conduct Rules in 1957?

The Minister of Finance (Shri Morarji Desai): 8 employees of the Income-tax Department and 36 employees of the Central Excise and Customs Departments were dismissed or discharged from service in 1957 after having been charge-sheeted. Information in regard to the Indian Audit Department and the office of the Controller General of Defence Accounts is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House. So far as the Secretariat of the Ministry of Finance and other offices under it are concerned, the information is 'nil'.

Military Tattoo

1960. Shri Rameshwar Tanti: Will the Minister of Defence be pleased to state:

(a) the total amount of money spent on the Military Tattoo held in New Delhi in March, 1958; and

(b) the total sale receipt of the tickets?

The Deputy Minister of Defence (Sardar Majithia): (a) and (b). The Accounts have not yet been finalised. The required information will be laid on the Table of the Lok Sabha as soon as the accounts have been finalised.

Increased Dearness Allowance to Life Insurance Corporation Employees

1961. Shri Tangamani: Will the Minister of Finance be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Life Insurance Corporation have announced increase in dearness allowance to its employees; and

(b) if so, the number of employees to be benefited by the same?

The Minister of Finance (Shri Morarji Desai): (a) The Life Insurance Corporation has granted with effect from 1st January, 1958, an increase in Dearness Allowance to its employees on the administrative side, whose salary is not less than Rs. 50 p.m. or greater than Rs. 250 p.m.

(b) It is expected that about 10,500 employees will benefit by the increase.

Election Petitions

1962. Shri Daljit Singh: Will the Minister of Law be pleased to state the number of election petitions rejected by various tribunals on the ground of non-compliance with section 82 of the Representation of People Act, 1951?

The Deputy Minister of Law (Shri Hajarnavis): 29 election petitions were rejected by the various Election Tribunals upto the 15th March, 1958

on the ground of non-compliance with the provisions of section 82 of the Representation of the People Act, 1951.

Library Movement in Himachal Pradesh

1963. Shri Daljit Singh: Will the Minister of Education and Scientific Research be pleased to state the total amount of financial aid and grant given to Himachal Pradesh to encourage library movement during 1957?

The Minister of State in the Ministry of Education and Scientific Research (Dr. K. L. Shrivall): Rs. 1,62,838.

Mineral Deposits in Himachal Pradesh

1964. Shri Daljit Singh: Will the Minister of Steel, Mines and Fuel be pleased to refer to the reply given to Starred Question No. 649 on the 3rd March, 1958 and state the estimated quantity and value of the various minerals discovered in Himachal Pradesh?

The Minister of Mines and Oil (Shri K. D. Malaviya): It is too early perhaps to estimate the quantity and value of the various minerals discovered in Himachal Pradesh, but I place on the Table of the Lok Sabha a statement giving the details in respect of each mineral discovered. [See Appendix VI, annexure No. 108].

Iron Ore Deposits in Madras

1965. Shri Ayyakann: Will the Minister of Steel, Mines and Fuel be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that deposits of Iron Ores have been discovered near Pachchai Malai Hills (Ladapuram Village) in Madras State; and

(b) if so, the steps taken to exploit them?

The Minister of Mines and Oil (Shri K. D. Malaviya): (a) Yes, Sir. The

discovery was made by the Geological Survey of India in 1943/1944.

(b) As usual, the Geological Survey of India has published all the information it has collected about these deposits through its memoirs. But so far, no concession has been taken out by a private party, presumably because the deposits are of limited extent, about 11 mill tons. and also because they are low grade, between 35 to 40 Fe. Such low grade ores are not ordinarily marketable. The Government of India have, however, sanctioned a 25,000 tons pilot plant at the National Metallurgical Laboratory, Jamshedpur for experimentation in the use of these low grade ores by the low shaft furnace method using non-coking and other inferior coals, and even lignite, since coking coal is not available nearby. Samples of the ore have also been sent to the Jamshedpur Laboratory for preliminary investigation on its sintering and reduction qualities. These steps have awakened interest in the deposits and it is understood that a private firm has already taken out a licence from the Madras Government to set up a pig iron manufacture plant based on these deposits.

Drinking Wells for Scheduled Castes

1966. Shri Siddiah: Will the Minister of Home Affairs be pleased to lay on the Table a statement showing:

(a) the number of common drinking wells for Scheduled Castes and non-Scheduled Castes that have been constructed in the Union Territories since the First Five Year Plan; and

(b) the total amount spent for the same?

The Deputy Minister of Home Affairs (Shrimati Alva): (a) and (b). The required information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the Lok Sabha as soon as received.