

(b) Does not arise.

Shri Dasaratha Deb: May I know the reasons why Government could not declare the Agartala-Assam road as a national highway?

Shri Datar: Government are considering the whole question, because under the Territorial Councils Act, certain roads have to be transferred to them for maintenance immediately. Government would consider this question also as to whether certain roads should be treated as State highways. There are certain difficulties. The West Bengal Act applies now, but the proposal is to apply the Bombay Highways Act. Then, the matter will be facilitated.

Shri Dasaratha Deb: Does the Minister say that certain roads are under the direct administration of the Territorial Council? But is it not a fact that only the foot-tracks are under the Territorial Council?

Shri Datar: That question itself is under consideration. Out of a large-mileage of 682 miles, there is a proposal to transfer at least 451 miles to them.

Shri Bangshi Thakur: May I know whether all the roads, by-roads, lanes and by-lanes of Agartala town and other divisional towns of Tripura are treated as national or State highways?

Shri Datar: That question has not yet been considered.

Coloured Earth

*1395. **Shri E. Narayanasamy:** Will the Minister of Steel, Mines and Fuel be pleased to state

(a) whether it is a fact that coloured earth suitable for distemping is found along the road sides of Kodaikanal, Kodaikanal Hills, Madurai District; and

(b) if so, the steps taken to utilize it?

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

(b) The utilisation of Lithomargic clays, which can be used for manufacture of inferior grade colour washes in shades of buff and brick-red, is the concern of the State Government.

Shri N. E. Munisamy: May I know whether it is a fact that the entire Thatchambadi firka of Wandiwash taluk in North Arcot is full of this coloured earth suitable for distemping and various other things? If so, are any steps being taken by Government to utilise it.

Shri K. D. Malaviya: I could not say.

Mr Speaker: Why not the hon. Minister say loudly that it is not possible for him to say without notice?

Shri B. S. Murthy: May I know whether the State Government has asked for technical advice and help in this matter?

Shri K. D. Malaviya: No, the State Government has not asked for any advice or help in this matter.

बबीना के निकट बम विस्फोट

*१३९७ श्री मोहन स्वचर . क्या प्रतिरक्षा मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) क्या यह सच है कि बबीना सैनिक केन्द्र के निकट नाहादा धीर भाई दो गांवों के पास बम-विस्फोट की दो घटनायें हुई थीं; धीर

(ख) यदि हा, तो क्या उन घटनाओं के कारणों का पता लगाया गया है ?

प्रतिरक्षा मंत्री के सहा-सचिव (श्री कर्णेश्वरदास नायकबाड़) . (क) २४ अक्टूबर धीर १८ नवम्बर को क्रमशः दो विस्फोट घटनाएँ हुई, दोनों विस्फोट भाई गांव के समीप हुए ।

(ख) दोनों घटनाओं में विस्फोटों की खानवीन के लिये कोर्टस भाफ इन्सायरी मुकर्रर की गई थी । बचपि पूरा विस्तार

झनी प्राप्ति नहीं है कोर्ट ने पहली बटना के बारे में अपनी कार्यवाही पूर्ण कर ली है। पता चला है कि इस बटना के लिये कोई उत्तरवाही नहीं है। दूसरी बटना के लिये सुकरर की गई कोर्ट आफ इन्वार्री ने अपनी कार्यवाही अभी पूर्ण नहीं की है।

Shri Mohan Swarup: How far is this place from the military camp?

Mr. Speaker: The Ministers are consulting each other.

Shri Fatesinhrao Gaekwad: As regards details, the report is awaited.

Shri Mohan Swarup: May I know whether the military authorities were informed by the villagers in time about this?

The Deputy Minister of Defence (Shri Baghuramiah): I may explain that in all these cases, prior notice is given, and it is the responsibility of the civil authorities to clear the area. I understand it has been done in this case.

Shri Harish Chandra Mathur: In part (b), it has been stated that the proceedings have been completed. If so, have the causes of the incident been mentioned?

Shri Fatesinhrao Gaekwad: The report is not yet available

Shri Harish Chandra Mathur: As regards the first incident, the report is available. But the causes have not been mentioned.

Shri Nath Pai: They do not themselves have the information.

Shri Baghuramiah: The Report is not yet received by the Ministry. As soon as the report is available, we shall give whatever information is possible.

Scholarships for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes

*1296. **Shri Ignace Beck:** Will the Minister of Education and Scientific Research be pleased to state whether

it is a fact that "Means Test" in the award of scholarships to Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes has been abolished?

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

Shri Ignace Beck: May I know whether this measure of abolishing the Means Test is of a temporary or permanent nature?

Dr. K. L. Shrimall: It is very difficult to say whether it is of a permanent nature. It all depends on the situation as it develops. But I can say that for a number of years it is going to be abolished. We are not going to revive it in the near future.

Shri B. K. Gaikwad: May I know the reason for this abolition?

Dr. K. L. Shrimall: The reasons are .

Shri B. S. Murthy: The community is poor

Shri B. K. Gaikwad: The Government is poor

Dr. K. L. Shrimall: I shall appreciate it if hon. Members kindly listen to me and then make comments. The reasons are three-fold. One is that the number of candidates in the higher income group being very small as compared to the total number of scholarship holders, the labour involved in the application of the Means Test was not considered to be commensurate with the results achieved. I will give the figures just by way of illustration. In 1953-54, the total number of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes scholarship holders was 7,541 and the number of scholarship holders whose parents' income was above Rs. 300 per month was only 47. Similarly, in 1956-57, the total number of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes scholarship holders was 23,226 and the number of scholars whose parents' income was above Rs. 300 per month was only 125. So it was not worthwhile undergoing all