

the Madhya Pradesh Government but the Madhya Pradesh Government have not yet agreed to this expenditure being borne by them.

Shri T. N. Singh: What is the position at present?

Shri Hathi: At present, it is the Central Government that will bear the expenditure.

Shri K. G. Deshmukh: May I know whether a portion of the expenditure which has been incurred up to this time for the survey has been met by the Madhya Pradesh Government?

Shri Hathi: Not yet, to my knowledge.

सरदार ए० ए० सहगल : क्या मैं जान सकता हूँ कि क्या यह सच है कि मध्य प्रदेश की सरकार ने जिम्मेदारी लेने से माहीं कर दी है ?

Shri Hathi: That is the position as it stands today.

Shri Jangde: Has the Government taken a decision as to whether this project is worth taking up or worth abandoning?

Shri Hathi: Investigations are going on. It means that it is worth taking up. However, a final decision will be possible only after the project survey is finally prepared.

OFFICERS IN NORTH EAST FRONTIER AGENCY

*1241. **Shri Rishang Keishing:** Will the Prime Minister be pleased to state:

(a) the names of Officers working in the North East Frontier Agency as Assistant Political Officers and Political Officers;

(b) whether Government provide them with any special facility in view of the fact that these Officers are almost cut off from the rest of the country and members of their families; and

(c) whether tribal people of Assam and Manipur are given special consideration in the matter of appointment when suitable local men are not available?

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Prime Minister (Shri J. N. Hazarika): (a) A statement is laid on the Table of the House. [See Appendix VIII, annexure No. 40.]

(b) Yes.

The officers are provided with the following special facilities:—

- (1) Rent-free accommodation;
- (2) Compensatory allowance equal to 30 per cent. of pay, when posted within the tribal areas; and
- (3) Supply of essential food-stuffs and other commodities at subsidized rates.

(c) Yes.

Out of six Political Officers two are tribal people, one belonging to the Assam State (Lushai Hills District) and the other is a Tangkhal Naga of the Manipur State.

Of the 15 posts of Assistant Political Officer, seven are filled by tribal people, two from the United Khasi and Jaintia Hills District; two from the Naga Hills District; two from the Lushai Hills District; and one from the Khampti Area (Mishmi Hills).

Shri Rishang Keishing: May I know whether the Public Service Commission has anything to do with the appointment of these officers, and also may I know whether they have to undergo certain competitive examinations?

Shri J. N. Hazarika: There is no provision for competitive examination. Generally, they are recruited by a Board consisting of the Adviser to the Governor, one Political Officer drawn from the areas and one member of the Assam Public Service Commission.

Shri Rishang Keishing: May I know if applications are generally called for and if so how many applicants were there last year and how many were selected?

Shri J. N. Hazarika: All the applicants are not necessarily called for interview, because for the recruitment to these posts certain qualifications are necessary, such as physical fitness, besides a number of other special qualities, for example, enterprise, initiative, imagination and resourcefulness.

Shri Rishang Keishing: Am I to understand from the answer that applications are not called for for these posts?

The Prime Minister (Shri Jawaharlal Nehru): Often, these people are taken from the existing services where possible. I am not quite sure. But we find it fairly difficult to find

the people—applications or no applications—because there is no excessive keenness to serve in these very difficult posts in out of the way places which are sometimes a fortnight's march from the nearest road.

Shri Sarmah: Who is the appointing authority?

Shri Jawaharlal Nehru: The North East Frontier Agency is directly under the Government of India, functioning through the External Affairs Ministry, and the Governor of the province is the agent of the Government of India, so that for all practical purposes the Governor is the authority.

Shri Rishang Keishing: In view of the fact that many educated hillmen have not been getting employment, will Government consider the feasibility of inviting applications for such posts in future?

Shri J. N. Hazarika: It is one of the recommendations made by the Board. Some increase in the cadre is contemplated and the claims of persons belonging to the tribes will be borne in mind in making the selections for the new posts.

Shri Jawaharlal Nehru: May I add a word? It is Government's policy to engage for these posts people from those hills as far as possible. In fact, their proportion is going up. We are trying to follow that procedure. I might inform the House that I have been in search for the last six months of some suitable hillmen to employ in the Central Government. The mere fact of having a degree does not necessarily qualify a person for this post.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: Next question.

LOANS TO AFGHANISTAN

*1243. **Shri Lakshman Singh Charak:** (a) Will the Prime Minister be pleased to state how much loan has been given to Afghanistan by the Government of India since 1947?

(b) What is the nature of the aid included in this loan?

(c) What other assistance is being given and has been given to Afghanistan since 1947?

The Deputy Minister of External Affairs (Shri Anil K. Chanda): (a) and (b). Facilities for the purchase of essential commodities such as textiles, sugar and other consumer goods of the maximum value of Rs. 1 crore have been extended to the Government of Afghanistan.

(c) Assistance has been given to Afghanistan and other countries in matters of trade, recruitment of experts, training of students in India and other similar matters.

Shri Dabhi: What are the terms of the loans?

Shri Anil K. Chanda: I have not got the details.

बोर्णियो जाने वाला प्रतिनिधि मंडल

*१२४४. श्री रघुनाथ सिंह : (क)

क्या प्रधान मंत्री बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि बोर्णियो भेजे जाने वाला प्रतिनिधि मंडल वहां कब भेजा जायेगा;

(ख) क्या मंडल में विभिन्न विषयों के विशेषज्ञ भी होंगे ?

The Deputy Minister of External Affairs (Shri Anil K. Chanda): (a) As soon as arrangements are made with the Government of North Borneo,

(b) It will be a small delegation of three, one of whom will be our Representative in Malaya. The other two will be persons with experience in colonisation.

Shri Dabhi: Has any interim agreement been entered into with the North Borneo Government on this question of settlement of Indians?

Shri Anil K. Chanda: Till the delegation has visited and reported, obviously there cannot be any agreement.

श्री रघुनाथ सिंह : इस डेलीगेशन का प्रावजैक्ट और उद्देश्य क्या होगा ?

प्रधान मंत्री (श्री जवाहर लाल नेहरू) : वहां जा कर वहां के हालात देखना और यह जानना कि हिन्दुस्तान के लोगों का वहां जा कर बसना कहां तक मुनासिब है ?

Shri B. S. Murthy: How has this delegation gone there? Were we invited to send one, or are we sending it as a friendly gesture?

Shri Jawaharlal Nehru: It is not a goodwill delegation, although I hope it will carry our goodwill with it.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: Next question.