

Calcutta, on the need for raising the age limit of children who should be provided with free and compulsory education?

(b) What is the attitude of Government towards this proposal?

The Minister of Education and Natural Resources and Scientific Research (Maulana Azad): (a) Yes.

(b) Government are committed to make provision for education to all children upto the age of 14 years as envisaged in the Constitution. Until this target is achieved it would not be possible to raise the upper limit of compulsory education.

APPRAISERS OF CUSTOMS DEPARTMENT, BOMBAY

***562. Shri Gidwani:** Will the Minister of Finance be pleased to state:

(a) whether any Appraisers of Customs Department, Bombay, were suspended during the years 1951, 1952 and 1953;

(b) if so, what was the nature of charges against them;

(c) whether they were prosecuted; and

(d) whether any departmental enquiries were held against them?

The Deputy Minister of Finance (Shri A. C. Guha): (a) Yes, Sir. One Appraiser was suspended in 1952 and two in 1953. No appraiser was suspended during the year 1951.

(b) The charge against the Appraiser who was suspended in 1952 was contravention of certain departmental orders. The charges against one of the appraisers suspended in 1953 were contravention of certain departmental orders. The charge against the second appraiser suspended in 1953 was the acceptance of illegal gratification.

(c) Only the Appraiser who was charged with the acceptance of illegal gratification has been prosecuted.

(d) Yes, Sir. Departmental enquiries have been held against the appraisers

other than the one who has been prosecuted in a court of Law.

LOAN TO ANDHRA

***569. Shri Nanadas:** Will the Minister of Finance be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Andhra Government have asked for any loan for repairing and bunding of the Godavari river banks;

(b) if so, the amount asked for; and

(c) the decision taken in the matter?

The Minister of Finance (Shri C. D. Deshmukh): (a) to (c). The Andhra Government asked for a total loan of Rs. 3.75 crores in the half-year 1953-54 for financing the expenditure on their Schemes on Capital account, including the Scheme for repairing and bunding of the Godavari river banks, and also for meeting a part of their Revenue Budget deficit for the half year ending 31st March 1954. The Government of India have agreed to advance a loan as requested, but have not yet decided which specific schemes should be financed from the loan. This will be decided in consultation with the Planning Commission.

SMUGGLING

***570. Pandit D. N. Tiwary:** Will the Minister of Finance be pleased to state:

(a) the number of cases of smuggling from India to Pakistan, and vice versa, detected in 1952 and 1953; and

(b) the commodities that are generally smuggled from one country to the other?

The Deputy Minister of Finance (Shri A. C. Guha): (a) and (b). A statement giving the required information is laid on the Table of the House. [See Appendix III, annexure No. 16.]

REPUBLIC DAY

***580. Shri Biren Dutt:** (a) Will the Minister of States be pleased to state what amount was spent to celebrate Republic Day in Tripura?