

(b) if so, with what result?

The Minister of Planning and River Valley Schemes (Shri Nanda): (a) The proposal for the establishment of an Arid Zone Research Station was not, as such, put up before the Arid Zone Research Committee of the UNESCO. Only a request for providing the services of a geophysical expert and a financial contribution of Rs. 3,60,000 out of a total estimated cost of Rs. 26,70,000 for the project was forwarded to the UNESCO.

(b) The proposal is under the consideration of the United Nations.

Shri V. P. Nayar: May I know whether Government have considered the possibility of introducing a lea-crop cultivation or protective afforestation for these arid areas?

Mr. Speaker: I am afraid it is a suggestion for action. Questions should be put for eliciting information and not for making suggestions for action.

CURRENCY

***65. Shri Hukam Singh:** Will the Minister of Finance be pleased to state:

(a) whether our currency has been contracted during the last six months;

(b) if so, to what extent; and

(c) whether Government propose to effect any credit contraction during the next six months?

The Minister of Finance (Shri C. D. Deshmukh): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) It is difficult to prophesy what the conditions will be like during the next six months. In any case the matter is one for the Reserve Bank of India to decide.

WORLD UNIVERSITY SERVICE

***66. Shri M. L. Dwivedi:** Will the Minister of Education be pleased to lay on the Table of the House a copy of the aims and objects of the Delhi Committee of the World University Service, and state:

(a) whether any survey of student community is contemplated;

(b) if so, the purpose thereof; and

(c) whether the Government of India are co-operating with the scheme in any way?

The Minister of Communications (Shri Jagjivan Ram): A statement of

aims and objects of the World University Service, with certain additional information, is placed on the Table of the House. [See Appendix I, Annexure No. 23.]

(a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The Service proposes to survey the social and economic conditions of College students in Delhi State.

(c) The Government of India are sympathetic towards the aims and objects of the World University Service but have received no request from the Service in respect of this scheme.

Shri M. L. Dwivedi: May I know, Sir, the name of the countries in which this kind of service is in vogue?

Shri Jagjivan Ram: I have not got the names of all the countries; but its headquarters are in Switzerland, I think.

Shri M. L. Dwivedi: Has this committee commenced its work; if so, when?

Shri Jagjivan Ram: The Indian Committee has commenced its work and a National Committee has been formed with headquarters at Delhi. This service was formed in 1950 and it has commenced its work.

Shri M. L. Dwivedi: May I know, Sir, if Government gave any kind of financial assistance to this committee?

Shri Jagjivan Ram: Not yet.

Shri S. C. Samanta: May I know, Sir, how many other local committees have been formed till now, excepting Delhi?

Shri Jagjivan Ram: Committees have been formed at Aligarh, Calcutta, Patna, Agra, Allahabad, Delhi, Madras, Bombay, Hyderabad and Gauhati.

Shri S. C. Samanta: May I know, Sir, what is the amount of assistance given annually?

Shri Jagjivan Ram: Local committees are expected to raise their own funds from the contribution from members and some help might come from the World Universities' Services; but that has not yet been decided.

COLOMBO PLAN

***67. Shri Velayudhan:** Will the Minister of Finance be pleased to state:

(a) what are the various items of the Colombo Plan which are linked with the Five Year Plan of the Government of India; and

(b) whether the Colombo Plan has in any way changed the time schedule of the Five Year Plan?