

RADAR EQUIPMENT

*1161. **Shri A. K. Gopalan:** Will the Minister of Defence be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that some Radar Equipment is under repair in the Ordnance Depots;

(b) whether it is a fact that British Officers removed some vital parts of these equipments just before they left; and

(c) whether it is a fact that those parts are yet to be replaced?

The Minister of Defence (Shri Gopalaswami): (a) Ordnance Depots do not carry out repairs, but radar equipment, like other equipment, may be under repairs in the workshops at any given time.

(b) No.

(c) Does not arise.

Shri A. K. Gopalan: May I know, Sir, what is the total value of the radar equipment bought and under what agreement?

Mr. Speaker: The hon. Member must be specific about the country and the period.

Shri A. K. Gopalan: From Britain for the past three years.

Mr. Speaker: Can he give the information?

Shri Gopalaswami: I am afraid I have not got the information. I can give him the estimated value of repairable radar equipment now held. If he would like to have that figure, it is 1.1 crores.

SCHOLARSHIPS FOR SCHEDULED CASTES

*1162. **Shri Veeraswamy:** Will the Minister of Education be pleased to state what are the various courses for which Government of India Scholarships are being awarded to Scheduled Castes students?

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Education and Natural Resources and Scientific Research (Shri K. D. Malaviya): The hon. Member's attention is drawn to a statement laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT

- (i) Medicine and allied subjects including Nursing.
- (ii) Engineering and Architecture.
- (iii) Agriculture, Forestry and Veterinary Science.

(iv) Technology.

(v) Science.

(vi) Education and Social Service.

(vii) Humanities, Social Science and Fine Arts.

(viii) Commerce.

(ix) Law and Library Science.

Shri Veeraswamy: May I know, Sir, whether the amount sanctioned by the Government for scholarships to Scheduled Caste students announced a few weeks ago is sufficient for the students when compared with the population of the Scheduled Castes and with the magnitude of the problem of illiteracy among the Scheduled Castes?

Mr. Speaker: He wants an opinion whether the amount of scholarships is commensurate with the population. That is a matter for opinion.

Shri B. S. Murthy: May I know, Sir, whether the amount of scholarship money given to individual students is decreased year after year?

Mr. Speaker: That question was put and I think it was answered.....

Shri B. S. Murthy: That was not answered.

Shri K. D. Malaviya: The total amount has been increased, but in certain cases for certain obvious reasons, for instance of fees, a reduction has been made and there are specific reasons for it.

Shri Velayudhan: May I know what are those obvious reasons?

Shri K. D. Malaviya: I haven't got them just now.

DAMAGE TO SCULPTURES

*1163. **Shri H. N. Mukerjee:** Will the Minister of Education be pleased to state whether it is a fact that the impact of sea-water is causing serious and continuous damage to the sculpture at Mahabalipuram, that there have been instances of avoidable damage by natural elements at Ellora and Konarak, and that many of the Ajanta Frescoes immediately require very special expert treatment if they are to be saved from destruction?

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Education and Natural Resources and Scientific Research (Shri K. D. Malaviya): The impact of sea-water threatens only the temple known as the Shore Temple at Mahabalipuram but not any pieces of sculpture. Steps have, however, been taken to check this threat, as far as possible.

The Government are not aware of any instances of avoidable damage by natural elements at Ellora and Konarak.

The paintings at Ajanta are frequently attended to by expert chemists.

Shri H. N. Mukerjee: Is it a fact, Sir, that there are cases of vandalism, specially at Ellora?

Shri K. D. Malaviya: I am not aware of it.

Shri H. N. Mukerjee: Do Government intend to appoint a special committee of experts to look after these matters, particularly because, on very authentic testimony, the sculptures at Ellora and Mahabalipuram are in great danger and the frescoes at Ajanta are also in jeopardy?

Shri K. D. Malaviya: As I said, Sir, from time to time steps have been taken by Government to see that the paintings at Ajanta are attended to. But as far as these big monuments are concerned, the general problem at all these places is the decay of masonry by sand-laden winds and other physical causes and the deleterious effects of these on monuments are there. So far we are not aware of any method by which to check them. We are consulting other countries also to find out if they have got any method by which to check them.

Shri H. N. Mukerjee: In view of recent advances in techniques do Government intend to remove the shore temple a further distance from the sea?

Mr. Speaker: I think he is making a suggestion.

Shri B. Das: Was there not an expert committee appointed a couple of years ago to give opinion on how the Konarak temple could be preserved from damage from sea breeze?

Shri K. D. Malaviya: I require notice for that.

Shri A. C. Guha: May I know, Sir, if the Government have any report that there has in recent times been a considerable deterioration to the Ajanta Frescoes?

Shri K. D. Malaviya: Government do not know of any specific damages that have been caused in Ajanta.

INDIAN BANKING COMPANIES ACT

*1164. **Shri H. N. Mukerjee:** Will the Minister of Finance be pleased to state:

(a) whether there was any negligence on the part of the Reserve Bank of India in examining the account books of the Calcutta National Bank, Ltd., which suspended business under the direction of the Reserve Bank in May 1951; and

(b) whether Government contemplate to amend the existing Indian Banking Companies Act and the Reserve Bank of India Act in order to minimise the danger to the community of recurrent bank failures?

The Minister of Finance (Shri C. D. Deshmukh): (a) No, Sir. I may mention for the information of the hon. Member that the Calcutta National Bank Ltd. did not, as stated by him, suspend business under the direction of the Reserve Bank. The bank was merely prohibited from receiving fresh deposits and it suspended business of its own accord.

(b) In the opinion of Government the existence of the Indian Banking Companies Act and a greater sense of their own responsibilities on the part of bank managements already minimise the danger of any recurrent bank failures. No amendment of the Act to that end is necessary or contemplated.

Shri H. N. Mukerjee: Sir, in view of the fact that the arrangement regarding the amalgamation of the Calcutta National Bank with the Bank of Jaipur was due to the movement conducted by the employees and the Bank's depositors and not the supervisory powers of the Reserve Bank of India, which undoubtedly are there, would not Government reconsider the position just stated?

Shri C. D. Deshmukh: I do not know what the hon. Member means. The Bank was inspected because it had committed repeated defaults in maintaining the statutory balances as required under section 42 of the Reserve Bank of India Act, and, therefore, it was prohibited from receiving fresh deposits. Subsequently the matter went up before courts at the instance of some of the depositors. I do not see how it involves any amendment of the Act.

Shri H. N. Mukerjee: In view of the possibility that the interests of the depositors can be safeguarded very much better if instead of a bank being sent into liquidation some kind of arrangement can be directed by the Reserve Bank, would not the Government consider ways and means of ensuring that possibility?