

SHRI M. S. GURUPADA SWAMY: I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether he would take this opportunity to look into the question of price and costs of petroleum products and whether, if necessary, action will be taken to negotiate on these two important items, since as the hon. Member who preceded me has said, foreign profits have been flowing into these concerns. Will this opportunity be availed of by the hon. Minister?

SHRI O. V. AL AGESAN: The question of the prices of petroleum products has been decided in accordance with the recommendations of what is known as the Damle Committee. Those prices and those recommendations hold good.

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA: What about my little question about the profits?

MR. CHAIRMAN: Yes, there was another portion of his question, namely, whether any investigation was made into the profits made.

SHRI O. V. ALAGESAN: All these accounts are being submitted and these are also taken into account. That information is before the Government.

NATIONAL LABORATORIES

*338. SHRI M. C. SHAH: Will the Minister of EDUCATION be pleased to state:

(a) what is the total number of national laboratories in the country at present;

(b) how many of them are headed by experts in the respective field of research; and

(c) whether the Mudaliar Committee, appointed to review the work of the laboratories, has submitted any report?

829 RSD—2

THE MINISTER OF EDUCATION (SHRI M. C. CHAGLA): (a) There are 27 National Laboratories/Institutes.

(b) All.

(c) Not yet, Sir.

SHRI M. C. SHAH: May I know, Sir, whether the Government contemplates establishing more laboratories in the near future in the country?

SHRI M. C. CHAGLA: Well, the laboratories that we have, have done so well that certainly we must contemplate establishing more; but when they will be established, I cannot say.

SHRI M. C. SHAH: May I ask, Sir, whether it has been possible to appoint research experts in all these national laboratories, or are some of them manned by persons who are not research experts?

SHRI M. C. CHAGLA: The question was about the head being an expert. Everyone of these laboratories is headed by a very fine expert, the finest in the country.

SHRI A. D. MANI: Referring to part (b) of the question, may I ask the hon. Minister, whether Prof. Blackett who visited India to see the working of these laboratories did not have many favourable things to say about the work done in these laboratories?

SHRI M. C. CHAGLA: I may inform the hon. Member that a reviewing committee consisting of very distinguished scientists of this country and abroad, is now considering and looking into the working of these laboratories and the committee will be submitting its report. I have got the names of the members of that committee here.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Not necessary.

DR. M. M. S. SIDDHU: In view of the recommendation of Prof. Blackett, that the National Physical Laboratory should reduce the amount of work it does on so-called fundamental research, has it shifted its emphasis to applied research?

SHRI M. C. CHAGLA: That question does not arise from the main question. But I can supply the information to the hon. Member if he wants it and if he writes to me.

SHRI B. K. P. SINHA: In view of the fact that most of these national laboratories are located at great distances from one another, I would like to know whether there is any machinery to co-ordinate the work of these national laboratories.

SHRI M. C. CHAGLA: There is a council here and that council coordinates the work of these laboratories. They are not working or functioning in anarchic isolation. Their work is constantly being co-ordinated, assessed and being considered.

SHRI K. SANTHANAM: Sir, may I know if the report of Prof. Blackett will be placed on the Table of the House?

SHRI M. C. CHAGLA: I would certainly see that that report is placed on the Table of the House.

RAIDS ON THE HOUSES OF SOME FILM STARS IN BOMBAY

/SHRI A. M. TARIQ:

\ SHRI M. P. BHARGAVA:

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS *he* pleased to refer to the answer given to Starred Question No. 623 in the Rajya Sabha on the 17 th September, 1963 and state what further action has been taken following the raids and searches carried out by the Special Police Establishment on the houses of some film stars in Bombay?

†The question was actually asked on the floor of the House by Shri A. M. Tariq.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI R. M. HAJARNAVIS) : Investigation into the case is continuing. As already stated in reply to the earlier question, the raids and searches in Bombay were carried out by the local police and not by the Special Police Establishment.

SHRI A. M. TARIQ: May I know from the hon. Minister whether one Mr. Islam Khan has given a statement before the magistrate that he had made a statement before the police under pressure, that he does not remember what statement he gave before the police and what statement he gave to the magistrate? Have the persons against whom charges were made, been freed from those charges?

SHRI R. M. HAJARNAVIS: Whether the confession was voluntary or not, is a matter for judicial decision and I cannot give any information on that. As far as the question of investigation is concerned, I have already stated that it is being pursued and no final report has been received.

SHRI A. M. TARIQ: In the other House the hon. Home Minister said that there has been no proof found against Mr. Dilip Kumar and Mr. Bimal Roy. May I ask if any thing has been found against Padma Bhushan Mehboob Khan and, if so what action has been taken in this matter?

SHRI R. M. HAJARNAVIS: I do not know whether any offence has been registered against Shri Mehboob Khan and what exactly is the scope and width of the investigation that is being carried on. I cannot say whether any person is guilty or not guilty at this stage, except what the Home Minister said in respect of Shri Dilip Kumar and Shri Bimal Roy.

SHRI A. M. TARIQ: May I know if any objectionable things were found in the course of the search, whether certain documents or letters were found in their houses and, if so, what