

request of the Canadian Government. And this is all that they were shown.

SHRI ABDUL RAHIM: What are the financial commitments of this visit on the part of our Government?

SARDAR S. S. MAJITHIA: No financial commitments, Sir, excepting that the Defence Secretary gave one party in their honour, and that was only a • private affair.

SHRI N. M. LINGAM: Is it not a fact Sir, that some Canadians are undergoing training in our Defence Staff College at Wellington, and did it not occur either to the Government of India or to this delegation that they should visit that institution?

SARDAR S. S. MAJITHIA: Although it does not arise out of this question, still I know that there are one or two officers from Canada who are attending the Staff College at Wellington.

STAFF COUNCILS IN THE CENTRAL SECRETARIAT

*109. SHRI B. SHIVA RAO: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the objects and functions of the Staff Councils functioning in the Central Secretariat;

(b) the composition of and the mode of election or selection of representatives of the staff to these Councils;

(c) the number of meetings so far held by each Council;

(d) the recommendations made or decisions taken at those meetings and the action taken by Government thereon;

(e) whether similar Staff Councils have also been constituted separately for Class IV employees of the Central Government; and

(f) if the answer to part (e) above be in the affirmative, what are the composition, powers and objects of Class IV Staff Councils?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI B. N. DATAR): (a) to (f). A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT

(a) To consider suggestions for improving the standards of work; to provide the members of staff a machinery for making their points of view known to Government on matters affecting their conditions of service; and to provide means of personal contact between officers and staff with a view to developing cordial relations between them and encouraging them to take keener interest in their work.

(b) The Council consists of a Chairman who is either the Secretary or a Joint Secretary in the Ministry, Government representatives not below the rank of Under Secretary, representatives of the staff, and a Secretary nominated by the Chairman in consultation with the staff representatives. The representatives of the staff are elected by the staff themselves and there is one representative for every 20 members, or fraction thereof.

(c) and (d). Information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House, when received.

(e) Yes.

(f) Composition, powers, and objects are the same as those of the Senior Staff Councils except that a Deputy Secretary of the Ministry functions as the Chairman and the Government representatives shall not be below the rank of Assistant.

SHRI B. SHIVA RAO: May I ask one supplementary question? According to, the statement given, one of the objects of these Staff Councils is to provide the members of the staff with machinery for making their points of view known to the Government on matters affecting their conditions of work. May I ask whether the Staff Councils have been constituted only for the purpose of making representations to the Government, or is any attempt made to discuss the points raised in these

meetings in order to reach some provisional agreement?

SHRI B. N. DATAR: That is right, Sir. These meetings are held for that purpose.

SHRI B. SHIVA RAO: I could not get the answer.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Your suggestion is carried out.

SHRI B. SHIVA RAO: I believe, Sir, in addition to the Staff Councils there are Welfare Officers appointed in the various Ministries. May I know what is the total number of these Welfare Officers?

SHRI B. N. DATAR: Sir, a large number of Welfare Officers have been appointed in the different Ministries.

SHRI AKBAR ALI KHAN: What is the function of these Welfare Officers?

SHRI B. N. DATAR: To look after the welfare of the employees.

RECOMMENDATIONS MADE AT THE FIRST MEETING OF THE ALL-INDIA COUNCIL FOR ELEMENTARY EDUCATION

♦89. SHRI DEOKINANDAN NARAYAN: Will the Minister of EDUCATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the recommendations made by the All-India Council for Elementary Education at its meeting held on the 10-11th March, 1958 have been forwarded to the State Governments; and

(b) if so, whether any comments have been received from them?

THE MINISTER OF EDUCATION (DR. K. L. SHRIMALI): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

SHRI DEOKINANDAN NARAYAN: May I know, Sir, what steps are being taken by the Central Government to implement all these recommendations?

DR. K. L. SHRIMALI: As soon as the proceedings of the Council are finalised, both the Central Government and the State Governments would take the necessary action.

SHRI DEOKINANDAN NARAYAN: May I know, Sir, the financial liability that the Government of India will have to bear in order to implement all these recommendations?

DR. K. L. SHRIMALI: Sir, financial liabilities are already there in that plan, and the whole purpose of setting up this All-India Council for Elementary Education is to speed up the process of expansion of elementary education.

SHRI DEOKINANDAN NARAYAN: May I know, Sir, what help is likely to be given to the States which accept these recommendations?

DR. K. L. SHRIMALI: Well, Sir, there are no special grants that would be given. Grants would be given according to the plan, but the Council would advise "the State Governments in various matters with regard to the expansion of elementary education.

SHRI DEOKINANDAN NARAYAN: What are the important recommendations?

DR. K. L. SHRIMALI: Well, Sir, there are several of them. Does the hon. Member like me to read them all or place them on the Table of the House?

MR. CHAIRMAN: Place them on the Table of the House.

SHRI H. D. RAJAH: Will the hon. Minister kindly say when in this country elementary education will become free and compulsory?

DR. K. L. SHRIMALI: Our purpose is that by the end of the Third Five-Year Plan we shall be able to provide free and compulsory education for the age group of 6 to 11, provided, of course, the funds are available for that purpose.