

SHRI H. N. KUNZRU: Sir, the Ministry has only to write to the Vice-Chancellors to get the required information. Is there any difficulty.

(Interruptions.)

SHRI AKBAR ALI KHAN: Will the hon. Minister please give the facts which require a huge expenditure for this simple purpose?

MR. CHAIRMAN: No, no.

SHRI H. C. MATHUR: May I know, Sir, whether the Government of India has got any agency to keep in touch with the students to whom they award scholarships? And, if so, what is that agency?

DR. K. L. SHRIMALI: We have the Indian Council of Cultural Relations which generally looks after the welfare of all foreign students. And we have also appointed welfare committees and tour committees at the various universities for looking after the general welfare of these students.

SHRI H. C. MATHUR: May I know, Sir, if the hon. Minister is receiving regularly information regarding these students, and if he is satisfied that they are very properly looked after?

DR. K. L. SHRIMALI: The Ministry is receiving regularly reports about the students who are Government of India scholars, and we are quite satisfied.

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA: May I know, Sir, if the Government has any information about the American students studying in the Calcutta University? If so, how many of them are above forty?

DR. K. L. SHRIMALI: I shall require notice.

SHRI H. C. MATHUR: One question more, Sir. May I know, Sir, whether the demand for scholarships and for studying in the universities is daily growing? And, if so, for what particular subjects and from what particular countries?

DR. K. L. SHRIMALI: There is certainly demand for these scholarships from some countries, though I could not tell exactly under what headings, because there are various purposes for which these scholarships are given.

SHRI T. V. KAMALASWAMY: May I know, Sir, what is the total amount paid as aid annually to these students?

MR. CHAIRMAN: What is the annual expenditure by way of aid to these students—he wants to know.

DR. K. L. SHRIMALI: There are various items. I do not have the total.

MR. CHAIRMAN: He wants to know the total amount.

DR. K. L. SHRIMALI: I have not got it.

SHRI H. C. MATHUR: What is the procedure that is followed by the Ministry in granting these scholarships?

DR. K. L. SHRIMALI: Usually the scholarships are sponsored by the countries concerned and the applications are forwarded through our Indian Missions. The final selection is made by the Government of India.

†FOREIGN AWARDS AND DECORATIONS FOR INDIAN CITIZENS

*414. **SHRI H. C. MATHUR:** Will the Minister for HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether any foreign countries have during the last two years expressed a desire to present awards and decorations to Indian citizens; if so, which are those countries;

(b) whether the Government of India were informed of the reasons for these awards in each case; and

(c) whether any pecuniary benefit accrues to any of these awards and decorations?

†Postponed from the 29th March 1955.

THE DEPUTY MINISTER FOR HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI B. N. DATAR):

(a) Yes; Afghanistan, Argentina, Belgium, France, Iran, Italy, Luxembourg, the United Kingdom and the United States of America.

(b) Yes; except in two cases in which the Government of India were not consulted

(c) No.

SHRI H. C. MATHUR: May I know, Sir, what is the nature of the awards made by Marshal Tito? Are they medals or decorations? May I ask for detailed information?

SHRI B. N. DATAR: What information does he want, Sir? Some medals were given or decorations were given—for example, Coronation Medal, Hubbert Medal.

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA: I should have thought medal decorates.

SHRI H. C. MATHUR: I just want to know what is the nature of these awards—whether they are medals or decorations?

SHRI B. N. DATAR: They are either medals or decorations. A medal itself might be used as a decoration.

SHRI H. C. MATHUR: Sir, I want to know what it represents. For what purpose is that medal given—for gallantry or for a particular service?

SHRI B. N. DATAR: It is a sign of honour in recognition of some service.

SHRI H. C. MATHUR: May I know whether these decorations and awards are in appreciation of services to this country, India, or to the countries concerned?

SHRI B. N. DATAR: They might be sometimes to the particular country concerned or sometimes in respect of their good work in the interests of the world itself. For example, I may point out the case of Tensing, where certain awards were given to him by other countries.

SHRI T. S. PATTABIRAMAN: May I know, Sir whether Government is aware that twice Stalin Peace awards were given; and, if so, has Government got information about that?

SHRI B. N. DATAR: I have not got any information about that.

SHRI T. S. PATTABIRAMAN: Not only awards, but also cash was given in regard to the Stalin Peace Awards.

SHRI H. P. SAKSENA: Sir, which were those two countries which did not inform the Government of India of the awards that they gave?

SHRI B. N. DATAR: The names of those countries are not here before me, but those two persons were private citizens and Government have made rules so far as Government servants are concerned. In the case of private citizens Government use their discretion as to whether the particular medal should be accepted by the person concerned or should not be accepted.

SHRI T. S. PATTABIRAMAN: Did the Government of the U.S.S.R. consult the Government of India before they gave the prizes?

(Interruption.)

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA: The Stalin prize award is not a decoration or a medal; I should think it is a prize.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Did they consult the Government? That is Shri Pattabiraman's question.

SHRI B. N. DATAR: I require notice.

SHRI H. C. MATHUR: May I know whether in appreciation of the services, the awards were given to civilian officers by Marshal Tito.....

SHRI B. N. DATAR: This question relates to civilian officers or private citizens.

SHRI H. C. MATHUR: say, the Secretary for Home Affairs?

SHRI B. N. DATAR: There is nothing here so far as the Secretary to the Ministry of Home Affairs is concerned.

SHRI H. C. MATHUR: I say, for illustration, is it not a fact that Marshal Tito granted certain decorations and awards and something of the type to some of the civilian officers of this country? And if it was in recognition of services, I wish to know to whom these awards had been made.

SHRI B. N. DATAR: I answered the very question that so far as Marshal Tito was concerned, they were given with the permission of the Government of India. He granted certain awards for appreciating their services here.

SHRI H. C. MATHUR: My question is, who are these officers; and what are the services for which these awards have been granted?

SHRI B. N. DATAR: I should have notice, Sir.

SHRI H. C. MATHUR: Sir, what are the reasons which the Government have in accepting these awards and decorations, as distinct from titles, so far as the demoralising effect of these is concerned?

MR. CHAIRMAN: That is a different question.

†OVER-PAYMENT MADE TO THE GOVERNMENT OF JAMMU AND KASHMIR

*417. SHRI H. C. MATHUR: Will the Minister for FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that an over-payment of Rs. 75 lakhs was made to the Government of Kashmir; and

(b) if so, whether the responsibility for this irregularity has been fixed?

THE MINISTER FOR REVENUE AND DEFENCE EXPENDITURE (SHRI A. C. GUHA): (a) An over payment of Rs. 72 lakhs was made through inadvertence but has since been readjusted.

†Postponed from the 29th March 1955

(b) The matter is under investigation.

SHRI H. C. MATHUR: Sir, May I know the process through which a file has to pass before such sanction is made and payment ordered?

SHRI A. C. GUHA: Sir, this is a payment to the Jammu and Kashmir Government, and the matter has to be handled by three accounts officers, by the Controller of Defence Accounts, the Accountant General, East Punjab Government, and the Accountant General of Jammu and Kashmir Government. In the office of the Controller of Defence Accounts there was some mistake in putting the amount in the original account. It should have been put in the responding credit. So, immediately the Jammu and Kashmir Government's Accountant General reported the matter for adjustment purposes.

SHRI H. C. MATHUR: May I know whether this was detected not by any of the officials in the Central Secretariat, but by the Jammu and Kashmir Government? And if it is so, may I know whether there is anything in the procedure which we follow which is responsible for such lapses? If so, whether the Government is thinking of revising that procedure?

SHRI A. C. GUHA: Sir, the first part of the question has already been replied to by me that it was pointed out by the Accountant General of the Jammu and Kashmir Government. And the amount has been readjusted properly. I do not think there is anything wrong in the procedure itself. It was just a clerical mistake. Instead of putting it under one head, some clerk or officer has put it under another head. But I can inform the House that there was no risk at all of this money being lost in any way. It must have been detected by one of these officers.

SHRI H. C. MATHUR: The hon. Minister said that the matter is under investigation. May I know, Sir, what is that matter which is being investigated and looked into, if the position