

ment for the setting up of a plant for the production of synthetic vitamin 'A'; if so, since when; and

(b) what steps have been taken to give effect to the proposal?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER FOR NATURAL RESOURCES AND SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH (SHRI K. D. MALAVIYA): (a) Government considered the feasibility of setting up a plant in India for the production of Vitamin 'A' in October 1952 and were advised after the question had been examined in December 1952 that the stage had not yet been reached for the installation of such a plant in India.

(b) The National Chemical Laboratory, Poona is carrying out investigations on the production of vitamin 'A' on a laboratory scale. Labora
tory, Poona is carrying out investi
gations on the production of vitamin

SHRI M. VALIULLA: What are the difficulties in the way of setting up the plant?

SHRI K. D. MALAVIYA: There are various difficulties. The main difficulty is that the chief source of vitamin "A" from which the synthesis has to be obtained is red palm oil and after extraction of vitamin "A" large quantity of the oil remains as unused. So unless we can integrate it with some big industry like the soap industry, the question of extraction of vitamin "A" from this red palm oil is impracticable. As for getting vitamin "A" from other sources like lemon grass or so, there are certain processing involved and they are being worked.

SHRI M. VALIULLA: Sir, is there any dearth of soap factories in India which cannot be used for this purpose?

SHRI K. D. MALAVIYA: But they get much better oils here, whereas this red palm oil has to be imported from outside in order to extract vitamin "A" and so it is not economically practicable to import this oil.

ALI-INDIA PRIMARY TEACHERS' ORGANISATION

*9. SHRI P. SUNDARAYYA: (ON BEHALF OF SHRI S. N. MAZUMDAR): Will the Minister for EDUCATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have received any representation from the All-India Primary School Teachers' Organisation;

(b) if so, what are the demands contained in that representation; and

(c) what action has been taken in the matter?

THE PARLIAMENTARY SECRETARY TO THE MINISTER FOR EDUCATION (DR. K. L. SHRIMALI): (a) (b) and (c). A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement

(a) The Ministry of Education has received a copy of the resolutions passed by the All-India Primary Teacher's Conference held at Nagpur on 6th and 7th January 1954.

(b) The Conference has passed a large number of resolutions, some of them dealing with improvement in the terms and conditions of service of primary teachers and others with the introduction of educational improvements in schools. The Conference has, however made three main requests: —

(i) Acceptance of the resolutions: passed at the Conference.

(ii) Improvement of conditions of service and pay scales of teachers.

(iii) Appointment of a Primary Education Commission.

(c) As regards (i) Primary Education is the responsibility of State Governments and the Central Government is not directly concerned either with the prescribing of syllabuses and text-books or the construction of school buildings. These matters are within the competence of State Governments.

As regards (ii), it is the State Governments that prescribe the terms and conditions of service of teachers. However, the Government of India are aware of the present unsatisfactory salary standards of teachers and have under examination the general question of the revision of teachers' pay scales. The Central Advisory Board of Education has also from time to time drawn the attention of State Governments to the need for ensuring security of service for teachers and improving their general terms and conditions of service.

In regard to (iii), the appointment of a Primary Education Commission is not considered necessary, because the problem of primary education has been surveyed thoroughly and critically by the various committees including the Zakir Husain Committee, which formulated the Scheme of Basic Education and later by committees of the Central Advisory Board of Education which has accepted Basic Education as the future pattern of education for the children of age group 6-14. This is the accepted policy of the Government of India and the State Governments.

This position was pointed out to the conference deputation which waited on the Prime Minister on the 6th July 1954.

SHRI P. SUNDARAYYA: Sir, in the statement supplied, with regard to matter (ii), it is said that the Government of India is drawing the attention of the various State Governments to the pay scales of the primary school teachers. What has been the result of this drawing of attention of State Governments as far as the improvement in the pay scales of the primary teachers is concerned?

DR. K. L. SHRIMALI: The Government are seriously exercised about the low scales of pay of the primary school teachers and they are anxious to raise the salaries. The whole matter is being considered by the Government at present.

As the hon. Members are aware, primary education is primarily the

responsibility of the State (governments but the Central Government and the Planning Commission are finding out if they can make some contribution towards the raising of the salaries.

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SHRI P. SUNDARAYYA: My question has not been answered. In the statement, it is said that the Government are aware of the present unsatisfactory salaries and that they had drawn the attention of the State Governments to the need for ensuring security of service to the teachers and for improving their general terms and conditions of service. What has been the result as far as improvement of the pay scales of the teachers is concerned as a result of the drawing of attention of the State Governments to this unsatisfactory state of affairs?

DR. K. L. SHRIMALI: Sir, the whole problem is the raising of the salaries of the teachers. Some of the State Governments have taken action but, as a whole, the result is not satisfactory and we are considering how the Central Government could help the State Governments in raising the salaries.

SHRI P. SUNDARAYYA: Is it not a fact that even the recent proposal of the Central Government to start new one-teacher schools has been a failure because of the fact that the State Governments are not prepared to bear the contribution demanded of them by the Central Government? As such, what does the Central Government propose to do to help the State Governments to raise the pay scales of the primary school teachers?

DR. K. L. SHRIMALI: I do not share the view of the hon. Member. Most of the State Governments have participated in the scheme of the Central Government with regard to relief for the educated unemployed by the starting of one-teacher schools.

SHRI P. SUNDARAYYA: In the statement supplied, in regard to the

third aspect, the answer is, there was no necessity for forming a Primary Education Commission because other commissions have gone into the matter and have recommended the giving of primary education up to the age of 14. Certain proposals had also been made in that connection. In view of the Government not wishing now to appoint a Primary Education Commission, what steps have the Government taken or propose to take to see that primary education up to the age of 14 becomes compulsory and free by the time limit set in the Constitution?

DR. K. L. SHRIMALI: I do not know how that question is connected with the question of the appointment of a commission for primary education. As regards primary education it is the declared policy of the Government of India that the primary education will be that of the basic pattern. It is only a question of implementing the whole scheme of basic education. This involves heavy financial expenditure. Basic Education is not the responsibility of the Central Government. The State Governments will have to take up this matter in course of time.

SHRI P. SUNDARAYYA: For how many years more will the teachers of the primary schools have to wait before their pay scales are increased?

DR. K. L. SHRIMALI: I have already stated that the whole question is before the Government.

PAY SCALES OF THIRD DIVISION CLERKS

*13. SHHIMATI PARVATHI KRISHNAN (ON BEHALF OF SHRI J. V. K. VALLABHARAO): Will the Minister for FINANCE be pleased to refer to the reply given in the Council to Starred Question No. 65 on the 22nd February 1954 and state:

(a) whether any decision has since been taken by Government in regard to the revision of pay scales of third division clerks in the Central Secretariat; and

(b) if not, how long it will take to arrive at a final decision in the matter?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER FOR FINANCE (SHRI A. C. GUHA): (a) and (b). I am sorry it has not yet been possible to have a final decision on this question but we expect at an early date we may be able to do so.

SHRI H. P. SAKSENA: Sir, this "I am sorry" at the beginning means that the Government of India is sorry. Isn't it?

SHRI A. C. GUHA: Surely, Sir, because I can only speak on behalf of Government.

SHRI P. SUNDARAYYA: Sir, I want to know what is meant by "at an early date"? Will it be before this Session ends?

SHRI A. C. GUHA: The question is very complicated and the Government is seriously considering this matter for some time. It will not be possible for me to indicate any target date but I can assure the House that the Government of India is as anxious as any other Member to come to an early decision in this matter.

SHRI P. SUNDARAYYA: Could we take it that before this Session of Parliament ends the Government will be able to arrive at a decision?

SHRI A. C. GUHA: It will not be possible for me to give any date at all. I am sorry for that.

SHRI P. SUNDARAYYA: Could we take it that it will take another year at least?

SHRI A. C. GUHA: It is for the hon. Member to make his surmise.

SHRI P. SUNDARAYYA: Is the Government not aware of the difficulty of the clerks who find it difficult to make their livelihood with the wages that are being given to them when even the Members of

Parliament find it difficult to get on with Rs. 400 per month as salary?

SHRI A. C. GUHA: Sir, all these factors have been represented to Government and the Government must have been aware of what the position is. I would also like the hon. Member and the House to remember that there are difficulties and complicated circumstances for the Government to consider before coming to a decision in this matter.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

SOCIAL EDUCATION CENTRES

no. SHRI D. NARAYAN: Will the Minister for EDUCATION be pleased to state the amount spent by Government on the opening of Social Education Centres under the scheme of providing employment for the educated unemployed during two years 1953-54?

THE MINISTER FOR EDUCATION AND NATURAL RESOURCES AND SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH (MAULANA AHUL KALAM AZAD): The requisite information has been called for from the State Governments concerned and will be supplied later.

COLONISATION IN THE NICOBAR ISLANDS

1. SHRI M. VALIULLA: Will the Minister for HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to refer to the answer given in the Council to my Unstarred Question No. 521 on the 13th May 1954 and state: ,

(a) who were the experts sent by Government in 1949 to the Andaman and Nicobar Islands;

(b) when these experts submitted their report to Government;

(c) what were the reasons given by them against colonisation in the Nicobar Islands;

I (d) whether any Indians are settled in these islands; if so, how many; and

(e) whether any Indians have shown their willingness to settle in any of the islands in the Nicobar I group?

THE MINISTER FOR HOME AFFAIRS AND STATES (DR. K. N. KATJU): (a) The following experts visited the Islands:—

(i) Shri H. R. Shivdasani, I.C.S.. Joint Adviser, Ministry of Rehabilitation.

(ir) Shri A. P. Hamilton, Inspector-General of Forests.

(iii) Shri R. L. Sethi, Agricultural Development Commissioner.

(iv) Shri DeMellow, Superintending Engineer, Central Public Works Department, Calcutta.

(bi March 1949.

; (c) An extract from the report I bearing on this point is placed below. I /See Appendix VIII, Annexure No. 1.1

(d) The total number of Indians, other than the original inhabitants, in the Nicobars is 219. They are mostly traders and officials.

(e) No.

MANGANESE ORE

2. SHRI J. V. K. VALLABHARAO: Will the Minister for NATURAL RESOURCES AND SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH be pleased to state the quantities of different grades of manganese ore available in the various States of India?

THE MINISTER FOR NATURAL RESOURCES AND SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH (MAULANA ABUL KALAM AZAD): A statement giving the information available is laid on the Table of the Council. [See Appendix VIII, Annexure No. 2.]