

of my hon. friend. Now, for the import of fertilizers, about two lakh tons.....

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Are you to send any certificate to the United States Government?

SHRI M. C. SHAH: There is a special Development Fund and whenever we get the value for the articles which were supplied to us, like fertilizers, agricultural machinery, steel, etc. then all these—the value obtained for these assets—will go to a special Development Fund and from that Special Development Fund we have to spend for development projects as stated in the agreement.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: He wants to know whether you are bound to account to the United States of America for the expenditure of the Fund.

SHRI M. C. SHAH: There is no question of accounting. In the agreement it is mentioned that the realisations go to a Special Development Fund and the Special Development Fund has to be spent on development projects in consultation with the United States of America.

SHRI B. GUPTA: May I put one more question, Sir?

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Next question. We have spent too much time already on this.

LOSSES ON BUS BODY BUILDING SCHEME

*520. SHRI P. C. BHANJ DEO: Will the Minister for DEFENCE be pleased to state whether the losses incurred up to the end of the year 1951-52 on the scheme of bus body building in the Hindustan Aircraft Ltd. have been recouped during the years 1952-53 and 1953-54?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER FOR DEFENCE (SHRI SATISH CHANDRA): Previous losses have been partly recouped by the Company during the

year 1953-54. It is expected that the balance will also be recouped in due course.

SHRI P. C. BHANJ DEO: May I know, Sir, the amount of total loss incurred?

SHRI SATISH CHANDRA: Sir, the total operational loss is about Rs. 5,06,562. I may however make it clear that the entire amount is not really an operational loss. It is more or less deferred development cost, which will be recovered from the customers in due course.

SHRI P. C. BHANJ DEO: May we know the reasons for this loss and whether the Government has succeeded in allocating responsibility for such losses?

SHRI SATISH CHANDRA: There is no question of allocating responsibility. Whenever a new job is undertaken, an initial cost is incurred on jigs, tools, designs, drawings, etc., and that has to be gradually recovered from the customers in due course.

SHRI P. C. BHANJ DEO: May I know, Sir, whether the loss in 1951-52 was met from loans by the Government?

SHRI SATISH CHANDRA: As far as I am aware, no separate loan was given for this purpose.

SCIENTIFIC EXPEDITIONS OF INDIANS TO THE HIMALAYAN REGION

*521. SHRI J. V. K. VALLABHARAO: Will the Minister for NATURAL RESOURCES AND SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have organised or rendered assistance in organising any scientific expedition of Indians to the Himalayan region; and

(b) if so, the nature of the expedition, the assistance rendered by Government therefor and the results obtained?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER FOR NATURAL RESOURCES AND SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH (SHRI K. D. MALAVIYA): (a) and (b). A statement giving the required information is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement

Under the joint auspices of the Indian Meteorological Department and the Central Water Power, Irrigation and Navigation Commission (now Central Water and Power Commission) survey parties visited Himalayan regions on three occasions during 1948 and 1949 for establishment of hydrometeorological observatories and snow survey work. With the co-operation of the Council of Scientific and Industrial Research advantage was taken of these tours to explore suitable sites for the establishment of a multi-purpose high altitude observatory.

As a result of these surveys 12 hydrometeorological observatories were set up at various places by the Ministry of Communications. A few possible sites for the High Altitude Research Station were found.

Financial assistance amounting to Rs. 40,500 was rendered to meet the expenses of the Survey Parties.

SHRI J. V. K. VALLABHARAO: Is it not a fact, Sir, that the expedition for further studies at high altitudes had to be given up due to the refusal of the porters there to carry their luggage and that the Government have not given any assistance?

SHRI K. D. MALAVIYA: No, Sir, I am not aware of any such refusal on the part of the porters.

SHRI J. V. K. VALLABHARAO: But it was given in a statement by the leader of the expedition, Prof. Mani.

SHRI K. D. MALAVIYA: Many expeditions have been organised on behalf of the Government under the

advice of the Experts Committee, and I do not know to which expedition the hon. Member is referring to.

SHRI J. V. K. VALLABHARAO: I am referring particularly to the expedition led by Prof. Mani of the Agra University.

SHRI K. D. MALAVIYA: That was not done under this scheme. The Experts' Committee under the Council of Scientific and Industrial Research have reviewed from time to time the activities of the various expeditions that have gone to the Himalayas for this purpose and at one time the leader of the party fell ill and, therefore, the expedition could not proceed. Otherwise things are going on normally and a sub-committee under the chairmanship of Dr. Bhabha has recently finished its expedition and submitted its report to the Government for locating a station for cosmic ray work.

MISAPPROPRIATION IN M.E.S. FORMATION

*522. SHRI J. V. K. VALLABHARAO: Will the Minister for DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have received any report of misappropriations, or irregularities on a mass scale in the M.E.S. Formations under the G.E. Jamnagar;

(b) if so, what is the extent of loss involved in such misappropriations or irregularities;

(c) whether any court of inquiry has been appointed to investigate into the matter and fix responsibility for the losses; and

(d) if the answer to part (c) above be in the affirmative, what is the stage at which the inquiry is at present?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER FOR DEFENCE (SARDAR S. S. MAJITHIA): (a) Yes.