

standing have not yet been calculated by the Accountant-General.

	Rs.	A.	P.
1948-49	...	177	7 0
1949-50	...	74	12 0
1950-51	...	477	6 0
1951-52	...	980	6 0
1952-53	...	464	12 0

SHRI P. C. BHANJ DEO: Sir, may I know the rates of interest charged on these loans?

SHRI B. N. DATAR: Formerly it was 3 per cent. but now it has been raised to 3½ per cent.

SHRI P. C. BHANJ DEO: May I know the reasons, Sir?

SHRI B. N. DATAR: The rate was raised on financial grounds.

SHRI P. C. BHANJ DEO: May I know the 'financial grounds', Sir?

SHRI B. N. DATAR: I think the Finance Ministry will explain it better, Sir.

SHRI P. C. BHANJ DEO: May I know, Sir, whether the loans given to Jammu and Kashmir have since been adjusted against the compensation for the removal of customs payable to that State?

SHRI B. N. DATAR: I am afraid the question is entirely irrelevant; the loans here are advances to officers.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The question is very different.

RADIUM DEPOSITS

*10. SHRI P. C. BHANJ DEO: Will the Minister for NATURAL RESOURCES AND SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH be pleased to state whether any large radium deposits have been discovered in India

THE DEPUTY MINISTER FOR NATURAL RESOURCES AND SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH (SHRI K. D. MALAVIYA): No, Sir.

SHRI P. C. BHANJ DEO: May I know, Sir, in that case if the popular view that the Vindhya Range contains deposits of radium is quite without any foundation?

SHRI K. D. MALAVIYA: There is no foundation. As a matter of fact, the elemental metal radium is found in extremely minute traces in our country.

SHRI P. C. BHANJ DEO: Has any geological survey been carried out to find out whether radium deposits exist?

SHRI K. D. MALAVIYA: The Geological Survey of India already know the natural conditions under which radium can be found and have reported to us. The knowledge that is available to us at present is that it is found in extremely minute traces. Therefore, there is no question of workability of radium deposits.

OUTSTANDING LOANS AND ADVANCES GIVEN BY THE EDUCATION MINISTRY

*11. SHRI P. C. BHANJ DEO: Will the Minister for EDUCATION be pleased to state:

(a) the amount of interest-bearing recoverable loans and advances given by the Ministry of Education and outstanding on 31-3-1948; 31-3-1950; 31-3-1952 and 31-3-1953; and

(b) the amount of interest-free recoverable loans and advances given by the Ministry of Education and outstanding on each of the above dates?

THE PARLIAMENTARY SECRETARY TO THE MINISTER FOR EDUCATION (DR. K. L. SHRIMALI): (a) and (b). A statement is laid on the Table of the House. [See Appendix VII, Annexure No. 4.]

SHRI P. C. BHANJ DEO: May I know the purpose for which these loans were given?

SHRI V. K. DHAGE: What is the answer to (b), Sir?

MR. CHAIRMAN: It is in the statement.

DR. K. L. SHRIMALI: There are various schemes which are in operation and the Ministry of Education have been advancing loans for these schemes.

SHRI P. C. BHANJ DEO: "Various schemes"—it is a very vague answer.

DR. K. L. SHRIMALI: I can give the details of the schemes. Advances have been made for various schemes such as constructing students' hostels, rehabilitation of a college after partition and for completion of courses in the case of Scheduled Caste students and overseas scholarships.

SHRI KISHEN CHAND: Is it a fact that the scholars to whom advances were made for going abroad have, on their return, not been provided with jobs and that therefore this money is not recovered from them?

DR. K. L. SHRIMALI: I am not aware of such cases.

PROSPECTING OF OIL RESOURCES IN WEST BENGAL

*12. SHRI GOVINDA REDDY: Will the Minister for NATURAL RESOURCES AND SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH be pleased to state:

(a) whether any agreement has been reached with the Standard Vacuum Oil Company in the matter of prospecting oil in West Bengal; and

(b) if so, whether a copy of the agreement will be laid on the Table of the Council?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER FOR NATURAL RESOURCES AND SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH (SHRI K. D. MALAVIYA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) It will not be in the public interest to lay a copy of the agreement on the Table of the Council until the conclusion of agreements with other parties under contemplation.

SHRI GOVINDA REDDY: May I know what other parties are there with whom negotiations are going on?

SHRI K. D. MALAVIYA: It may be one; they may be more than one.

SHRI GOVINDA REDDY: How long would it take for these negotiations to be completed?

SHRI K. D. MALAVIYA: We hope to finish the negotiations early.

SHRI GOVINDA REDDY: May I know whether the hon. Minister considers that it is not in the public interest to disclose the whole of the agreement or any particular clause in the agreement?

SHRI K. D. MALAVIYA: The whole of it.

SHRI B. GUPTA: May I know if under this agreement the Standard Vacuum Oil Company has been allowed to make aerial survey of the Bengal basin?

SHRI K. D. MALAVIYA: It was even before this agreement that they were allowed to have an aerial survey of the West Bengal area.

SHRI B. GUPTA: May I know, Sir, if in view of the U.S.-Pak Military Pact, this facility would still continue to be allowed to the Standard Vacuum Oil Company?

SHRI K. D. MALAVIYA: The facilities were already given and the flight surveys have been completed.

SHRI H. D. RAJAH: If the hon. Minister considers that it will not be in the public interest to lay a copy of the agreement on the Table of the Council now, will it be laid at any time?

SHRI K. D. MALAVIYA: Quite early.

SHRI M. VALIULLA: From today's papers I find that Government is entering into an agreement with CALTEX. Is it so?

SHRI K. D. MALAVIYA: I said that there are other parties and we may enter into some sort of agreements with