

The difficulty in dealing with this matter is that one cannot easily come to grips with a mentality which derives from the 15th or 14th century.

SHRI C. G. K. REDDY: Sir, in the original answer which the hon. Deputy Minister gave he said that their replies to our protests sometimes did not come and those that came sometimes were so vague that it clearly showed studied indifference. In view of this may I ask what further steps the Government would take now that it has been established that no reply could ever be received from the authorities in Goa with any deference to our wishes whatever?

SHRI JAWAHARLAL NEHRU: I have answered already.

FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE TO BRITISH EMBASSIES AT KABUL AND TEHERAN

*358. SHRI C. G. K. REDDY: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the British Embassies at Kabul and Teheran were being financed by the Government of India until the 15th August 1947;

(b) whether the properties purchased in those places for the British Embassies were also debited to the Government of India; and

(c) whether it is a fact that the Government of India have claimed rights to these properties from the British Government; and if so, with what response?

THE PRIME MINISTER AND MINISTER FOR EXTERNAL AFFAIRS AND DEFENCE (SHRI JAWAHARLAL NEHRU): (a) and (b). The British Legation at Kabul and its buildings were financed by the Government of India. The British Embassy at Teheran was financed by the Government of the United Kingdom, and the Government of India paid an annual contribution for services rendered. The buildings at Teheran were paid for by the Government of the United Kingdom and

India's contribution during 1900 to 1927 included a portion of expenditure on maintenance and repairs of these buildings.

(c) The property at Kabul has been claimed by the Government of India and its transfer is under negotiation.

As regards Teheran, the question of transfer of property does not arise.

COMMISSION TO ENQUIRE INTO THE SUSPENSION OF THE CONSTITUTION OF BRITISH GUIANA

*359. SHRI S. MAHANTY: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether there was any proposal to appoint a person from India to the Commission set up by the Government of the United Kingdom, to enquire into the suspension of the constitution in British Guiana; and

(b) if so, whether the Government of the United Kingdom approached the Government of India in the matter?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER FOR EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI A. K. CHANDA): (a) and (b). No such proposal has been made to Government.

SHRI S. MAHANTY: In view of the fact that the Government of India have declared themselves categorically against colonialism and in view of the fact that India is a member of the Commonwealth, are the Government of India going to exert their good offices on this question?

SHRI JAWAHARLAL NEHRU: It is not clear to me what the hon. Member suggests and how we can do anything by exerting our good offices or otherwise. In a broad way naturally we are interested in it and normally the ways are diplomatic.

SHRI S. MAHANTY: The fact is that the Government of India 'is a member of the Commonwealth, and a leading member of the Commonwealth

is responsible for the suspension of the constitution in British Guiana which is a colony under them.

SHRI JAWAHARLAL NEHRU: The House is aware that members of the Commonwealth deal with each other as independent nations—not in any other capacity. As an independent nation we can deal with the Government of the U.K. in this matter, but if we bring in the Commonwealth connection in this matter that can also be raised in other matters and we have made it perfectly clear that we do not want that Commonwealth connection to be raised in regard to any matter as a member of the Commonwealth. For example, there is the question of South Africa which is a very important question. We deal with South Africa directly, not through any Commonwealth connection.

SHRI S. MAHANTY: May I take it from the Prime Minister that the Government of India will seek other avenues to raise this matter?

(iVo reply.)

SHRI S. N. MAZUMDAR: May I know, Sir, whether the Government has given any further thought to the question of raising this matter in the United Nations Assembly?

SHRI JAWAHARLAL NEHRU: As far as we know, it does not come within the scope of the United Nations Charter as it is. It may be referred to possibly in the course of a speech, but various matters have been raised there which have been ruled out as not coming within its scope and this particular matter probably may have even less chance than those matters which have previously been ruled out.

SHRI S. N. MAZUMDAR: May I know, Sir, whether this matter was referred to in the last meeting of the United Nations Trusteeship Committee?

SHRI JAWAHARLAL NEHRU: It maybe that some reference was made—I cannot recollect. It was not in the agenda. Somebody may have referred to it in a speech—I do not remember.

SHRI S. N. MAZUMDAR: Will the hon. the Prime Minister kindly enquire and let us know what was the attitude taken up by the representative of India in that Committee?

SHRI JAWAHARLAL NEHRU: The Trusteeship Committee deal?—with trusteeship questions. British Guiana does not come under that; it is a colony. There is a difference between the two. Tanganyika, I think, is trusteeship territory; it is definitely limited. As far as I know the question was not raised there at all. Whether it was casually referred to in the course of a speech I cannot say. If it was referred to, naturally it could be referred to in the context of our real attitude in regard to colonial territories.

SHRI S. N. MAZUMDAR: I know that British Guiana is not under the jurisdiction of the Trusteeship Committee but I came across a newspaper report that this question was referred to, whether it was casually or how I do not know. My question is this: whether it was referred to in any sitting of that Committee and if it was referred to there, whether there was any opportunity for the representative of India to express India's opinion in that connection, and, if so, what was that opinion?

SHRI JAWAHARLAL NEHRU: My colleague, the hon Deputy Minister, was in New York at the time. I will ask him to reply.

SHRI A. K. CHANDA: This matter was not discussed in the Trusteeship Committee.

SHRI C. G. K. REDDY: Earlier in the session the hon. the Prime Minister was pleased to state an opinion that the Government had come to with regard

to British Guiana. Since then I think the leaders of British Guiana were here and had discussions with the Government of India. May I know if the Government of India have formed a firm opinion after their visit, and, if so, what is it?

SHRI JAWAHARLAL NEHRU: I do not quite understand how the hon. Member expects me to express opinions about the various happenings in other countries of the world. We are interested in them but we do not go about expressing opinions about anything happening in the world, however interested we might be.

LOAN GIVEN TO UNPRODUCTIVE PROJECTS

*360. SHRI P. C. BHANJ DEO: Will the Minister for IRRIGATION AND POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether loans are given to State Governments for financing major irrigation works which are likely to be unproductive; and

(b) whether the rate of interest charged on loans for unproductive major irrigation works is less than the 'rate of interest charged on loans for productive major irrigation works?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER FOR IRRIGATION AND POWER (SHRI J. S. L. HATHI): (a) There is no restriction on the grant of Central loans for financing such projects.

(b) There is no such distinction in the rates of interest.

SHRI P. C. BHANJ DEO: May I know, Sir, the criterion of productivity adopted by the Ministry in granting these loans to the States for financing major irrigation works?

SHRI J. S. L. HATHI: The criteria that are generally applied in granting loans are firstly, the resources of the States and, secondly, the necessity of the areas in which the irrigation projects have to be carried out. •

SHRI P. C. BHANJ DEO: May I know if payment of interest is also one of the criteria adopted?

SHRI J. S. L. HATHI: The rate of interest varies according to the period and utilisation of the loan.

SHRI P. C. BHANJ DEO: May I know if any of these irrigation projects in the States have started to pay interest on the loans taken by them, and, if so, may I have some details of such interest payments?

SHRI J. S. L. HATHI: To my knowledge, not any as yet.

SHRI P. C. BHANJ DEO: May I know, Sir, if it is true that many of these States are borrowing from the Centre in order to be able to pay interest on these loans?

SHRI J. S. L. HATHI: I have not followed actually what the hon. Member said.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Whether the States are borrowing from the Centre in order to be able to pay interest on the loans advanced to them, that is what he asks.

SHRI J. S. L. HATHI: I have no information.

DR. P. C. MITRA: May I know whether the Government is prepared to exempt the States from paying interest on loans which are solely utilised for unproductive irrigation projects?

MR. CHAIRMAN: It is a suggestion for action—whether they would do so.

DR. P. C. MITRA: No, no. MR.

CHAIRMAN: Yes, yes.

DR. P. C. MITRA: Whether the Government is prepared.....

MR. CHAIRMAN: Mr. Mazumdar.