

DR. P. C. MITRA: May I know whether the loans have been given on the assurance of supplying any essential commodities to the Government?

SHRI M. C. SHAH: The loan to the Government of Afghanistan was to enable them to purchase certain materials from India. As for Nepal, it was with regard to certain airfields and certain roads to be completed.

SHRI S. MAHANTY: What are the materials that the Government of Afghanistan intended to purchase from India?

SHRI M. C. SHAH: Commodities like textiles, sugar, etc.

DEBT DUE FROM BURMA

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

(a) whether the debt due from Burma to India is being treated as an interest-yielding asset; and

(b) if so, whether the interest receivable on this asset is added to the principal and shown as an increasing asset or is credited to interest receipts?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER FOR FINANCE (SHRI M. C. SHAH): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The payment of interest along with the capital remains suspended since 1942 and, pending settlement with the Government of Burma, no adjustment is being made in the Government accounts on account of interest.

SHRI P. C. BHANJ DEO: May I know, Sir, if any progress has been so far made for the repayment of this loan by the negotiations which were scheduled to take place in November 1953?

SHRI M. C. SHAH: Negotiations are carried on.

SHRI P. C. BHANJ DEO: What are the reasons for Burma not giving the loan back?

SHRI JAWAHARLAL NEHRU: Hon. Members are aware of recent history. There has been a considerably big war in the last dozen years or so in which Burma was invaded and was for three or four years under enemy occupation. And naturally all payments stopped then. Since then Burma had to face all kinds of civil commotion and trouble. Areas of Burma on the basis of which some of these calculations were made were not in Burma Government's occupation. So necessarily the Government of India could not in the circumstances go on pressing the Government of Burma to pay up immediately. Now an officer of the Government of India in the Finance Ministry was sent there to discuss these matters with the officers of the Burma Government. In addition to that I am in correspondence with the Prime Minister of Burma on this subject.

GRANTS FOR FUNDAMENTAL RESEARCH

***400. KUMARI SHOILA BALA DAS:** Will the Minister for EDUCATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether applications are invited by Government for grants for books and equipment for fundamental research in universities;

(b) if so, whether any such grant has been given to any university; and

(c) what are the conditions, if any, attached to such grants?

THE PARLIAMENTARY SECRETARY TO THE MINISTER FOR EDUCATION (DR. K. L. SHRIMALI): (a), (b) and (c). A statement giving the information is laid on the Table of the House. [See Appendix VI, Annexure No. 136.]

KUMARI SHOILA BALA DAS: May I know, Sir, how many applications were received?

DR. K. L. SHRIMALI: In all 118 applications were received last year for grants in aid for fundamental research.

KUMARI SHOILA BALA DAS: How are the scholarships given to the applicants?

DR. K. L. SHRIMALI: There is a committee, as the hon. Lady Member may see, which scrutinises the applications and grants are made on the advice of this committee. The committee consists of distinguished educationists.

KUMARI SHOILA BALA DAS: May I know if any grant is given for building research institutions?

DR. K. L. SHRIMALI: Grants are not given for building purposes but only a small assistance is given for necessary scientific literature or for purchase of any special apparatus.

SHRIMATI SHARDA BHARGAVA: Is there any grant given to the Rajasthan University?

DR. K. L. SHRIMALI: The list is there.

MR. CHAIRMAN: From the list you will understand.

VISIT OF THE DEPUTY MINISTER FOR
DEFENCE TO THE ORDNANCE FACTORY AT
KHAMARIA

*401. **SHRI S. N. MAZUMDAR:** Will the Minister for DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Deputy Minister for Defence visited the Ordnance Factory at Khamaria in September last for the purposes of an enquiry into certain incidents which occurred between the 20th and the 22nd of July, last; if so, what are the findings of that enquiry; and

(b) whether it is a fact that the workers in the factory made certain complaints to the Minister at the time of his visit to the factory; and if so, what are those complaints?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER FOR DEFENCE (SHRI SATISH CHANDRA): (a) When I visited the Factory on the 13th of October last, I tried to ascer-

tain facts relating to the incidents at Khamaria in July. I personally questioned the officials concerned and the Hospital staff and also met deputations of Labour Union Executives. I examined certain Hospital records too. No formal inquiry was held or is proposed to be held.

(b) A memorandum setting out certain grievances was submitted by the Ordnance Factory Labour Union and action where necessary is being taken. The complaints related to the incidents of the 20th—22nd July, to the provision of residential accommodation, to changing the system of allocation of shops in the Factory Estate, to the need for improvement of the hospital, etc.

SHRI S. N. MAZUMDAR: May I know, Sir, whether it is a fact that the hon. Minister assured the labourers' deputation that departmental action would not be taken against those against whom prosecution is going on?

SHRI SATISH CHANDRA: I did not give any such assurance. In fact, after I had met the labour representatives, such a news appeared in the local Press at Jabalpur and it had to be contradicted by me later on.

SHRI S. N. MAZUMDAR: Is it not a fact that the hon. Minister at least promised consideration of this demand?

SHRI SATISH CHANDRA: No, Sir. I definitely told them that this matter could not be examined till the evidence in the case of those who were being prosecuted by the police, had been recorded and it was only in the light of the evidence that the matter could be considered further.

SHRI S. N. MAZUMDAR: May I know, Sir, then how is it that before the police evidence was recorded, departmental action had already been taken against certain persons?