

SHRI GOVINDA REDDY: Have the Government ensured that the representations are true and that some effort on the part of Government is called for to remedy the situation?

SHRI A. C. GUHA: Sir, the position is that it is open for the Indian mine owners to remit their money by money order and the Portuguese post offices accept money orders only in Portuguese Indian currency. So there is no difficulty for those Indian miners to remit their money. And as I have stated in reply to part (c) of the question, the question does not arise as to what steps Government propose to take to remedy the situation. Already the position has been found to be satisfactory and the Government has also consulted the Consul General for India in Goa.

SHRI GOVINDA REDDY: Has it not been represented to the Government, Sir, that in many of these remittances to India they are compelled to buy Indian currency at black market prices?

SHRI A. C. GUHA: No, Sir. I have no such information. Rather the information is that the Portuguese post offices accept money orders only in Portuguese Indian currency in which these Indian miners are paid.

SHRIMATI VIOLET ALVA: May I know the exchange rate now existing?

SHRI A. C. GUHA: I would like to have notice.

ADMISSION AGE TO DELHI COLLEGES

*352. **SHRI B. C. GHOSE:** Will the Minister for EDUCATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that no student is allowed admission into colleges in Delhi unless he has completed his sixteenth year; and if so, the reasons therefor;

(b) whether such age restriction regarding admission in colleges prevails in any other Universities in India; and if so, which; and

(c) what is the average annual number of students who are denied admission into colleges in Delhi on the ground that they are below sixteen?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER FOR NATURAL RESOURCES AND SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH (SHRI K. D. MALAVIYA): (a) Yes, Sir. The age limit has been fixed by the Delhi University under its own powers in the interests of the health of the students and of maintenance of proper standards of University education. This rule is calculated to prevent boys and girls of immature age from seeking admission to the University.

(b) Complete information in respect of all Universities in India is not readily available. But it appears that certain Indian Universities, e.g. Andhra, Madras, Osmania and Travancore Universities have prescribed minimum age limits for admission either to the Matriculation Examination or to the University courses.

(c) The colleges in Delhi do not maintain a list of students who are denied admission on account of the age restriction imposed by the Delhi University. The average annual number of students who passed the Higher Secondary Examination during the last three years before attaining the age of 16 years is 117.

SHRI B. C. GHOSE: Have the Government satisfied themselves that in the interests of the health of the students the minimum age limit should be fixed at 16?

SHRI K. D. MALAVIYA: The Universities are autonomous bodies. They are perfectly within their rights to impose age limits for admission into Universities and therefore Government express no opinion on it. I personally think that it is a very wise decision of the University.

SHRI B. C. GHOSE: In reply to a question the hon. Minister stated that it was within the competence of the Delhi University. He also went on to

state that it was in the interest of the health of the students. I inferred that it was the opinion of the Government that the prescribed age limit should be 16. Is it the hon. Minister's personal opinion or is it Government's opinion?

SHRI K. D. MALAVIYA: Government as such have nothing to do with this because the Universities are entitled to make their own rules for admission. Considered in this context, whether it is my opinion or it is Government's opinion is not very much relevant.

SHRI B. C. GHOSE: In the event of different Universities prescribing different minimum age limits, do Government consider it desirable that this question should be considered and that uniform rules laid down?

SHRI K. D. MALAVIYA: It is a suggestion and Government are prepared to consider it.

SHRI B. C. GHOSE: Is the Minister aware that in the Calcutta University, which is one of the largest, there is no minimum age limit fixed at the moment?

SHRI K. D. MALAVIYA: I take the information from the hon. Member.

SHRI B. RATH: Am I to understand that the Ministers are guided by their personal opinions in giving answers to questions?

(No answer.)

APPOINTMENT OF SENIOR OFFICERS IN PART B STATES

*353. SHRI H. C. MATHUR: Will the Minister for STATES be pleased to state whether it is a fact that Governments of Part B States have no free hand in the appointment of officers to important posts such as the posts of Chief Secretary and Chairman of the State Public Service Commission?

THE MINISTER FOR STATES (SHRI K. N. KATJU): The Governments of Part B States (except Jammu and Kashmir and Mysore) have been requested to consult the Government of India in regard to appointments to the following posts:

- (1) Chief Secretary;
- (2) Finance Secretary;
- (3) Inspector General of Police; and
- (4) Chairman and Members of the Public Service Commission.

SHRI H. C. MATHUR: Is this control uniform in respect of all the various 'B' States or does it differ from State to State?

DR. K. N. KATJU: I have told you just now that it does not apply to Mysore and Jammu and Kashmir. Otherwise we expect that we would be consulted.

SHRI H. C. MATHUR: Are these the only four posts for which they have to consult?

DR. K. N. KATJU: I think so.

SHRI H. C. MATHUR: What about the Chairman of the Revenue Board? Have they to consult for that?

DR. K. N. KATJU: Not to my knowledge, if I am not mistaken.

SHRI H. C. MATHUR: Are these officers, after their appointment, entirely responsible to the State Government or also to the States Ministry?

DR. K. N. KATJU: To the State Governments.

SHRI H. C. MATHUR: Are they supposed to make any report direct to the States Ministry?

DR. K. N. KATJU: None whatsoever.

SHRI BASAPPA SHETTY: What are the main reasons for imposing these restrictions on 'B' States?