

SHRI B. N. DATAR: The foreigners are from all countries except India.

SHRI K. C. GEORGE: When was this charge of misappropriation actually made against the Secretary?

SHRI B. N. DATAR: I should like the hon. Member to repeat the question.

MR. CHAIRMAN: When was this charge of misappropriation made against the Secretary?

SHRI B. N. DATAR: The charge was made long ago and he has not been found at all. The charge was in respect of a sum of about Rs. 2,000, which he had misappropriated, and since then he is absconding.

SHRI K. C. GEORGE: I want to know when the charge was made.

SHRI B. N. DATAR: The date is not before me and that is what I said.

SHRI K. C. GEORGE: That is a most convenient answer.

SHRI B. N. DATAR: All right, I can give the date to the hon. Member later if he wants it.

9 A.M.

DEPOSITS OF COAL AND LIME-STONE IN TRIPURA

*692. MUNSHI ARMAN ALI: Will the Minister for NATURAL RESOURCES AND SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH be pleased to state:

(a) whether there are coal, lime-stone and petroleum deposits in Tripura;

(b) whether the Burmah Oil Company and the Standard Vacuum Oil Company have been granted prospecting licence for exploration of oil in Tripura;

(c) how far their work has proceeded;

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(d) whether any private company applied for licence to operate the coal mine in Tripura; and

(e) if the answer to part (d) be in the affirmative, what action Government have taken on such application?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER FOR NATURAL RESOURCES AND SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH (SHRI K. D. MALAVIYA): (a) Government are informed that only some thin stringers of coal of a few inches thickness are known to occur in Tripura State. No lime-stone occurrence of any importance is known to exist in the region. There are some possibilities of finding oil-bearing structures in Tripura State.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) Government have no definite information. It must be remembered that the Burmah Oil Company is only in the first year and the Standard Vacuum Oil Company in the second year of their prospecting work.

(d) and (e). No, Sir.

SHRI H. P. SAKSENA: Should not Government keep note of the progress made by these companies when they have granted them the licence for exploration?

SHRI K. D. MALAVIYA: These companies are not bound to send their reports prematurely.

SHRI H. P. SAKSENA: So they may do what they like?

SHRI K. D. MALAVIYA: No.

SHRI C. G. K. REDDY: Have they alone been given prospecting licence for exploration or have prospecting permits been given to others?

SHRI K. D. MALAVIYA: Just now they hold exclusive monopoly for prospecting.

SHRI V. K. DHAGE: Are there any other conditions laid down with regard to the permits given to these companies for prospecting?

SHRI K. D. MALAVIYA: No, Sir. I may add that prospecting is quite different from drilling and mining exploration.

SHRI B. RATH: Did any local company apply to the Government of India two years ago for being given a licence for prospecting and was it refused, whereas Burma Shell was given the licence?

SHRI K. D. MALAVIYA: That is entirely wrong.

SHRI V. K. DHAGE: Is there any agreement that after the prospecting is over these companies will be given contracts to drill and bore?

SHRI K. D. MALAVIYA: There is no such understanding but it is obvious enough. When they spend lakhs and lakhs of rupees there is some sort of a presumption, or understanding that they will be given mining licence also.

STOPPAGE OF GRANTS-IN-AID

*693. SHRI R. BISWASROY: Will the Minister for EDUCATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the grant-in-aid given to the Banasthali Vidyapith, Jaipur, has been stopped; and

(b) if so, for how long it has been stopped, and why?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER FOR NATURAL RESOURCES AND SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH (SHRI K. D. MALAVIYA): (a) and (b). No, Sir. The Vidyapith has been continuously receiving grants-in-aid from Central Revenues since 1948-49. However, as Education is a State subject, the Central Government cannot accept this responsibility on a permanent basis. It has, therefore, been suggested to the institution that it should look to the State Government of Rajasthan for its maintenance.

SHRI K. S. HEGDE: Is the Government of India giving aid to other such educational institutions?

SHRI K. D. MALAVIYA: Yes, Sir, through the State Governments.

SHRI K. S. HEGDE: Then what is the reason for discontinuing the aid to this institution?

SHRI K. D. MALAVIYA: It is not discontinued. We have only said that we are now not proposing to give any direct aid to those States and they have to apply for grant to the State Government as Education is a State subject.

DR. SHRIMATI SEETA PARNAND: Is the Government aware that this Banasthali Vidyapith is a fine and unique experiment in women's education and that it should really not only deserve aid from the Centre but it deserves that efforts should be made by the Centre to multiply such institutions. Has the Education Minister visited this?

SHRI K. D. MALAVIYA: Government is well aware that this is a very useful institution. We have all sympathy with this institution but because the system of grants-in-aid is through State Governments, we have only intimated to them that they should apply to the State Government. However, Sir, it has been decided to consider the Vidyapith's request for the grant for the current year sympathetically.

DR. SHRIMATI SEETA PARNAND: Has the Minister visited this?

SHRI K. D. MALAVIYA: No.

DR. SHRIMATI SEETA PARNAND: Will he do it?

SHRI K. D. MALAVIYA: Just now I do not propose to.

SHRI H. P. SAKSENA: Am I to understand that if the Government is sympathetic to any institution, it stops the grant to that institution?