

DR. R. B. GOUR : We have submitted a representation, but the Government says they have not received it.

MR. CHAIRMAN : The hon. Member can send it to the Committee. Next question.

OCEANOGRAPHIC RESEARCH

*159. SHRI P. SUNDARAYYA : (a) Will the Minister for EDUCATION be pleased to state whether it is a fact that a foreign professor is coming to India to guide and direct oceanographic research in an Indian university ?

(b) If so, what is his name, and what is the agency through which he has been selected ?

(c) What share of the expenditure relating to his emoluments the Government of India will bear ?

(d) How long will he stay in India, and what are the detailed schemes of his work here ?

(e) Which is the university where he will work, and when was Oceanography introduced as a subject in that university ?

(f) Is it a fact that oceanographic study of Indian waters will be of vital importance to the naval defence of the country ?

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

(b) Prof. Eugene C. La Fond, Head of Oceanography Branch, U. S. Navy Electronics Laboratory has come to India through the United States Educational Foundation in India.

(c) Nil.

(d) The Professor has come to India for nine months. The scheme of his work is—

(i) to survey the geological and biological features of the western part of the Bay of Bengal ;

(ii) to do advanced teaching work in Oceanography ; and

(iii) to train members of the staff of the university in the methods of advanced teaching.

(e) Andhra university. The subject of Oceanography was introduced in the university in 1948 as a special subject in university Department of Atmospheric and Meteorology.

(f) Such study will lead to an increase of knowledge and the results of the survey would be very useful to the Indian Navy. The Government do not consider that this matter is such that from the point of view of defence all scientific research in connection with it should be barred.

SHRI P. SUNDARAYYA : Why is it that an officer of the American Navy is considered the fittest person to do this work in the Andhra University ?

SHRI K. D. MALAVIYA : Government have selected him in their right judgment.

SHRI P. SUNDARAYYA : Why is it that the Government in their great wisdom have invited a foreign officer to do oceanographic research which will affect our security ?

SHRI K. D. MALAVIYA : Sir, so far as this important section of geophysics is concerned, we do not have any experienced Indian scientist, and we have obviously to fall back on somebody who is available outside for the purpose of giving training to our students. So far as the defence and security aspects are concerned, Government are quite alive to them, and it should not be difficult for the hon. Member to presume that we will take such steps as will be necessary for us to safeguard our own interests.

SHRI P. SUNDARAYYA : Is it the Government's policy, as is evident from a number of questions, to bring army officers from foreign countries in the garb of educational experts to India ?

MR. CHAIRMAN : It is an insinuation.

SHRI P. SUNDARAYYA : It is a fact, Sir, and not an insinuation.

SHRI B. GUPTA : May I know if an attempt was made to consult Indian scientists before inviting the American ?

SHRI K. D. MALAVIYA : Yes, Sir. We took all those aspects into consideration.

SHRI H. P. SAKSENA : When did this need for oceanographic study arise ? And why did it not arise earlier ?

SHRI K. D. MALAVIYA : As time goes on, and as we become more conscious of the problems that face us, we take necessary steps to face those problems and to solve them.

SHRI P. SUNDARAYYA : Will the Government stop this policy of inviting army experts from foreign countries to India to do research and other things ?

SHRI K. D. MALAVIYA : Government are quite aware of who should be invited and who should not be invited from outside ; and if they feel that in the public interest some steps should not be taken, they will not be taken.

TRANSACTIONS MADE IN THE UNITED KINGDOM

*160. SHRI M. VALIULLA : Will the Minister for FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether all transactions made in the United Kingdom for and on behalf of India are subject to the supervision of the Comptroller and Auditor-General of India ; and

(b) whether the accounts of all such transactions are maintained by him ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER FOR FINANCE (SHRI M. C. SHAH) :

(a) All financial transactions in the United Kingdom involving expendi-

ture of the Central and State Governments of India are subject to the audit control of the Comptroller and Auditor-General of India.

(b) The accounts of these transactions are maintained by the Chief Accounting Officer to the High Commissioner for India in the United Kingdom except in respect of certain transactions which are dealt with by the Commonwealth Relations Office on an agency basis as a transitional arrangement. The accounts are audited by the Comptroller and Auditor-General and incorporated in the relevant accounts of the Union and States as the case may be.

SHRI M. VALIULLA : May I take it that the accounts of certain transactions made in the United Kingdom are not kept by the Comptroller and Auditor-General of India ?

SHRI M. C. SHAH : Sir, under the Constitution, Article 149, the Comptroller and Auditor-General has been given statutory duties and responsibilities and as long as an Act is not passed by the Parliament the previous Act would apply as adapted by the Constitutional Order of 1947 and in section 11 (1) the position is made quite clear.

SHRI M. VALIULLA : Does it mean that the accounts of certain transactions are maintained by the Comptroller and Auditor-General and the accounts of some are not ?

SHRI M. C. SHAH : As far as transactions in the United Kingdom are concerned, as I said, their accounts are kept by the Accounting Officer to the High Commissioner for India.

SHRI M. VALIULLA : Is it not the responsibility of the Comptroller and Auditor-General or the Accounting Officer to the High Commissioner for India to maintain accounts of all such transactions ?

SHRI M. C. SHAH : As I said, Sir, the accounts of all transactions in