

Foreign exchange difficulties sometimes come in the way but the anxiety of the Planning Commission is to ensure the completion of such important schemes as far as possible.

Shri Feroze Gandhi: Is the Chief Minister's statement that Rs. 12 lakhs of foreign exchange has been allotted to UP and that too, to a private firm and not for the public sector, true or not?

The Minister of Finance (Shri T. T. Krishnamachari): I am afraid we will have to check it up before an answer could be furnished. We cannot say definitely whether we made statewide allocations in regard to foreign exchange. Allocations are made in regard to projects. I will have the matter checked up.

Shri Feroze Gandhi: Has the Ministry's attention been drawn to it?

Shri T. T. Krishnamachari: I am afraid my attention has not been drawn to that.

Shri Feroze Gandhi: You were outside.

Shri Narayanankutty Menon: For an equitable distribution of the available foreign exchange, has the Government considered a sort of a priority—state wise or project wise?

Shri L. N. Mishra: It will be considered projectwise primarily and not statewide.

Shrines in India and Pakistan

*23. **Shri Ajit Singh Sarhadi:** Will the Prime Minister be pleased to refer to the reply given to Starred Question No. 268 on the 23rd July, 1957, and state:

(a) whether there has been any correspondence with the Pakistan Government about the convening of a meeting of the Joint Committee set up for the preparation of List of Hindu and Sikh religious shrines in West Pakistan and the protection of the properties attached thereto, and

preservation of their religious sanctity; and

(b) if so, with what effect?

The Deputy Minister of External Affairs (Shrimati Lakshmi Menon): (a) and (b). Yes, Sir. The Government of Pakistan were invited to send their representatives for a meeting of the Joint Committee, at New Delhi, in the fourth week of October, 1957. No reply was received. The invitation has been renewed for a meeting in the fourth week of November, 1957.

Shri A. S. Sarhadi: In view of the evasive attitude of the Pakistan Government, has the Government of India thought of any other way to meet the objective?

The Prime Minister and Minister of External Affairs (Shri Jawaharlal Nehru): No.

Imported Consumer Goods

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*24. { **Shri Wodeyar:**
Shri Parulekar:

Will the Minister of Commerce and Industry be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that with the announcement of the new Import Policy, the prices of almost all imported items such as medicines, stationery etc. have shot up; and

(b) if so, the steps Government propose to take in the matter?

The Deputy Minister of Commerce and Industry (Shri Satish Chandra): (a) The prices of some of the imported commodities including medicines and stationery which had initially shown a tendency to rise are now by and large steady.

(b) The price trends of imported commodities are constantly kept under review to see that there is no abnormal increase in the prices of commodities due to short supplies. The price trends will also be taken into account at the time of formulating the import policy for the next half