

scheme could be implemented in all Universities.

Shri Thirumala Rao: Has the attention of Government been drawn to a recent Press note or some news-item to the effect that the Uttar Pradesh Government is opposed to the scheme because it costs Rs. 12 crores?

Dr. K. L. Shrimall: That is not correct because I have had a discussion with the Education Minister there, and they are examining the whole scheme.

Shri Hem Barua: In view of the fact that the implementation of the three-year degree course depends mostly on remodelling of secondary education, may I know what steps Government have so far taken by way of providing financial aid towards secondary schools?

Dr. K. L. Shrimall: The hon. Member is aware that Government are giving grants to State Governments to improve secondary schools also. Re-organisation of secondary education and University education is inter-related, and we have been making efforts to improve both simultaneously.

Purchase of Hunter Jets

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*343. { **Shri Rameshwar Tantia:**
Shri D. C. Sharma:

Will the Minister of Defence be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a U.K. firm made public its deal to supply Hunter Jets to India; and

(b) if so, what steps are being taken to stop such premature announcements that may affect India's security?

The Deputy Minister of Defence (Sardar Majithia): (a) and (b). After the contract for the supply of Hunter aircraft was actually signed, the Managing Director of the British firm released a brief Press note regarding the contract.

Shri Rameshwar Tantia: May I know if the firm has violated the sale agreement by premature announcement? If so, is the firm going to be put in the black list?

Sardar Majithia: No violation of agreement has taken place.

Shri Joachim Alva: We bought the Mysteres from France and we have now bought the Hawker Hunters from U.K. Before going to purchase the Hawker Hunters, did we enquire of France whether they had the latest super Mysteres?

Sardar Majithia: Yes, we did, and we found that the Hunter was more suitable for our purposes.

Shri Kasiwal: There are Press reports today to the effect that these Hunter jets which are being ferried across to India from England are being prevented from landing in Iraq. May I know how far the reports are true?

Sardar Majithia: Iraq has not cleared them for Habbaniya. That is true, but I should like to say that this will not affect deliveries of the aircraft. It may be delayed by a day or two.

Shri D. C. Sharma: May I know whether the Government of India invited global tenders, wherever aircraft were available, or whether the enquiry was confined to some parts of the globe only?

Sardar Majithia: We do check up which are the aircraft suitable from amongst the aircraft available. The endeavour is to pick out the best that we can possibly get. Therefore, the question of issuing an open tender all over the world does not come in.

Shri Easwara Iyer: In view of the fact that the Iraq Government has refused these aircraft to land there, will the delay affect the training schedule of the I.A.F.?

Sardar Majithia: No, Sir.

Shri Biresa Roy: In view of the statement made by the Defence Minister in the Security Council about the partisan attitude of the British Government in regard to the Kashmir question, is it politic or safe to buy such essential equipment of aircraft requirements from Great Britain?

An Hon. Member: Where does it come in?

Sardar Majithia: It is beyond the purview of this question, if I may say so but I would like to repeat again that we are not producing any aircraft of this type in our own country. We have to buy them from outside and we have to make our choice from the aircraft available throughout the world and we make the best choice that we can possibly make.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

Ex-Saurashtra Railway Corruption Case

*338. **Shri T. B. Vittal Rao:** Will the Minister of Home Affairs be pleased to state:

(a) whether any prosecution has been launched against the three officers of Ex-Saurashtra Railway involved in the embezzlement of Rs. 13 lakhs; and

(b) if not, the reasons for the delay?

The Deputy Minister of Home Affairs (Shrimati Alva): (a) A prosecution has been launched against certain officers of the Ex-Saurashtra Railway for alleged criminal conspiracy to defraud Government.

(b) Does not arise.

All India Tribal Conference

*344. **Shri Sauganna:** Will the Minister of Home Affairs be pleased to refer to the reply given to Unstarred Question No. 553 asked on the 8th August, 1957 in respect of the All India Tribal

Conference held at Koraput in Orissa and state:

(a) whether any decision for carrying out sample survey in various States for finalising the criteria for the definition of Scheduled Tribes has since been taken; and

(b) if so, its nature?

The Deputy Minister of Home Affairs (Shrimati Alva): (a) and (b). The matter is still under consideration.

Sales Tax

*345. { **Shri S. M. Banerjee:**
Shri Raghunath Singh:
Sardar Iqbal Singh:

Will the Minister of Finance be pleased to state:

(a) whether a final decision has since been taken to amalgamate Sales Tax with Excise Duty; and

(b) if so, whether this has met the concurrence of the State Governments?

The Deputy Minister of Finance (Shri B. B. Bhagat): (a) and (b). The question is still under consideration in consultation with the State Governments.

अफगानिस्तान में भारतीय मुद्रा का

*३४६. **श्री रघुनाथ सिंह:** क्या वित्त मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि क्या यह सच है कि अफगानिस्तान के खुले बाजार में भारतीय मुद्रा का मूल्य सरकारी विनियम दर से लगभग दुगना है ?

वित्त उम्मीदी (श्री ड० रा० भगत): जी हाँ। सरकार को इस घास्य के समाचार मिले हैं।

Kerala Education Bill

*347. **Shri V. C. Shukla:** Will the Minister of Home Affairs be pleased to state:

(a) whether numerous representations have been received by the