

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

Central Government against the Kerala Education Bill; and

(b) if so, the action taken thereon?

The Minister of State in the Ministry of Home Affairs (Shri Datar): (a) Yes.

(b) Due consideration has been given to them. Similar representations seem to have been made also to the State Government.

Utilisation of Nahar Katiya Gas

*348. { Shri Basumatari:
Dr. Ram Subhag Singh:

Will the Minister of Steel, Mines and Fuel be pleased to state the steps taken so far for the utilization of Natural Gas available in Nahar Katiya in Assam?

The Minister of Mines and Oil (Shri K. D. Malaviya): The utilization of natural gas is still under consideration.

Import of Books

*350. Shri Tangamani: Will the Minister of Finance be pleased to state:

(a) whether it has come to the notice of Government that importers of books and periodicals find it difficult to clear packets through the foreign Post Office due to the delay in checking by customs authorities; and

(b) if so, the steps taken by Government to reduce inconvenience to the trade?

The Deputy Minister of Finance (Shri B. R. Bhagat): (a) There has been no delay on the part of the customs authorities in checking parcels of books and periodicals. Some parcels had, however, been held up for non-production of Import Trade Control licences consequent on the cancellation of the Open General Licence with effect from 1-7-1957. Instructions have since been issued for the clearance of the parcels.

(b) The steps taken by Government to reduce inconvenience to the trade included *inter alia* the following:—

- (i) The new Import Trade Control regulations were given publicity.
- (ii) The staff in the Postal Appraisal Units was augmented.
- (iii) Relaxations were made in the rules regarding issue of licences.
- (iv) When it appeared that in spite of the above steps, parcels were held up, the Collectors of Customs were authorised to release consignments of magazines and periodicals without an Import Trade Control licence. This concession has been extended to books also and is admissible upto 31-3-1958

Integration of State Banks

*351. { Shri Damani:
Sardar Iqbal Singh:

Will the Minister of Finance be pleased to state the decision taken by Government on the recommendation of the All India Rural Credit Survey Committee regarding integration of the State-associated banks with the State Bank of India?

The Deputy Minister of Finance (Shri B. R. Bhagat): No decision has been taken as yet.

हिमाचल प्रदेश में प्राथमिक शिक्षा

*३५२. श्री पद्म देव : क्या शिक्षा और वैज्ञानिक गवेषणा मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) हिमाचल प्रदेश में अनिवार्य प्राथमिक शिक्षा कब से लागू होगी; और

(ख) उसे धन तक न धारण करने के क्या कारण हैं ?