

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 धब तक न धारम्भ करने के क्या कारण हैं ?