

Foreign Exchange Allowance to Shipping Companies

*634. **Dr. Ram Subhag Singh:** Will the Minister of Finance be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that representations have been received by Government for allowing shipping companies to retain their foreign exchange earnings in various countries where such exchanges originate and free some part of these earnings from Government pool of foreign exchange; and

(b) if so, whether Government have taken any decision in this regard?

The Deputy Minister of Finance (Shri B. R. Bhagat): (a) and (b). The attention of the Hon'ble Member is invited to the answer given by the Transport Minister to Starred Question No. 293 in the Lok Sabha on the 20th November, 1957.

Shri Heda: In view of the fact that the foreign exchange owned by the shipping companies, even if the Government has ultimate control over it, take some time to come from the different countries to the foreign exchange pool, are Government devising any methods so that this procedure may be cut down and the foreign exchange that is earned comes earlier to Government?

Shri B. R. Bhagat: This is regulated by the Foreign Exchange Regulation Act and all earnings by either shipping concerns or other companies go to the foreign exchange pool and that is controlled by the Reserve Bank. If the hon. Member has any specific suggestions to cut down the procedure or red-tape so that it may come to the pool earlier, certainly I shall consider it.

Shrimati Renu Chakravartty: What is the amount which is required by these companies to be freed from the pool?

Shri B. R. Bhagat: They have not asked for any specific amount, but they said that the foreign exchange

earnings of the shipping concerns should be earmarked for their acquiring of more tonnage, and in the answer given on 20th November the Transport Ministry did not accept that point because it was objectionable in point of principle and there were other practical difficulties. They said the Government would consider or make available the foreign exchange earned by new tonnage to pay the price.

Secondary School Teachers

*636 { **Shri M. Elias:**
Shri H. N. Mukerjee:

Will the Minister of Education and Scientific Research be pleased to refer to the reply given to Starred Question No. 101 on 17th July, 1957 and state:

(a) whether the State Governments have submitted schemes for the utilisation of central subsidy for increasing secondary school teachers' salaries; and

(b) if so, the amounts sanctioned to each State for the purpose?

The Minister of State in the Ministry of Education and Scientific Research (Dr. K. L. Shrimall): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) A statement is laid on the Table of the Lok Sabha. [See Appendix II, annexure No. 132.]

Shri M. Elias: May I know whether, in view of the recent agitation of the secondary school teachers in West Bengal for higher wages, the Central Government will direct the immediate implementation of their just demands out of this subsidy?

Dr. K. L. Shrimall: It is for the West Bengal Government to make proposals.

Shri M. Elias: May I know whether any representation has been made by the A.B.T.A. on behalf of the secondary school teachers?

Dr. K. L. Shrivasth: I am not sure of having received any representation, but the representation will have to be considered by the State Government and not by the Central Government.

Cost Structure of Coal Production

*637. { **Shri T. B. Vittal Rao:**
Shri A. K. Gopalan:

Will the Minister of Steel, Mines and Fuel be pleased to refer to the reply given to Starred Question No. 100 on the 17th July, 1957 and state:

(a) whether the Committee appointed to examine the cost structure of coal production has submitted its report;

(b) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(c) whether any steps are being taken to expedite the same?

The Minister of Steel, Mines and Fuel (Sardar Swaran Singh): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c). The basic data for examination of the cost structure is the cost of production of different grades of coal in the various coal-fields. The Committee requested a few selected collieries to furnish replies to a comprehensive proforma and questionnaire on the subject, so that they could conduct a cost investigation. Replies from many collieries have been received rather late; in a few cases, collieries have not furnished any information yet. The Committee's report has, therefore, been delayed. Efforts are, however, being made to expedite the work and it is expected that the Committee will be able to submit its report early in 1958.

Shri T. B. Vittal Rao: May I know if this committee will take into consideration the earnings realised through export of coal because while exporting coal they realise a higher price?

Sardar Swaran Singh: I am sure they will take into consideration all relevant factors.

Shri A. C. Guha: May I know whether the interim price fixed some months ago has been implemented by all the colliery-owners?

Sardar Swaran Singh: I presume so. At any rate, no complaint has come to me so far that it has not been implemented.

Shri P. C. Bose: May I know whether the committee is entirely dependent on the records submitted by the colliery-owners or it is touring about and seeing things for itself?

Sardar Swaran Singh: The cost accounts officers are touring the collieries and checking up their accounts to ensure that the statements that have been furnished are really correct.

Amalgamation of Small Collieries

*638. { **Shri T. B. Vittal Rao:**
Pandit D. N. Tiwary:
Shri Jhulan Sinha:

Will the Minister of Steel, Mines and Fuel be pleased to refer to the reply given to Starred Question No. 243 on the 22nd July, 1957 and state:

(a) whether Government have arrived at any decision with regard to the implementation of the recommendations of the Expert Committee on the amalgamation of small collieries; and

(b) the steps Government propose to take in this connection?

The Minister of Steel, Mines and Fuel (Sardar Swaran Singh): (a) Government have accepted the principle of amalgamation of Collieries. No final decision has yet been taken on various details which are still under examination.

(b) Does not arise.

Shri T. B. Vittal Rao: Is there any proposal before Government to bring