

Free and Compulsory Primary Education

*206. { Shri Ram Krishan:
Shri D. C. Sharma:
Sardar Iqbal Singh:
Shri S. M. Banerjee:

Will the Minister of Education be pleased to state:

(a) steps taken by the Central Government for the introduction of free and compulsory primary education in selected areas in the country;

(b) the places where it has been introduced; and

(c) the time by which it will be introduced in whole of India?

The Minister of Education (Dr. K. L. Shrimall): (a) and (b). Education at the primary stage is free in most places all over the country. Also, compulsory primary education has already been introduced in some areas in all the States excepting Jammu & Kashmir and also in Delhi among the Union Territories.

(c) It is hoped that it will be possible to introduce free and compulsory primary education for ages 6-11 in the whole of India by the end of the Third Five Year Plan.

Rourkela Fertilizer Plant

*207. Shri T. B. Vittal Rao: Will the Minister of Steel, Mines and Fuel be pleased to refer to the reply given to Starred Question No. 396 on the 21st February, 1958 and state:

(a) whether any orders have since been placed for supply of plant and machinery for the Fertiliser Plant at Rourkela;

(b) if so, when the work on this will commence; and

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

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

(b) and (c). Tenders for the Fertilizer Plant at Rourkela have been received and are under scrutiny of a Technical Committee. A final decision regarding placement of order is expected to be taken shortly.

Recession in U.S. Economy

*208. { Shrimati Parvathi Krishnan:
Shri Damani:

Will the Minister of Finance be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government of India have made any appraisal of the effects of the recession in U.S. Economy on India's economy;

(b) if so, what are the conclusions reached; and

(c) what steps Government propose to take to meet the situation?

The Deputy Minister of Finance (Shri B. R. Bhagat): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Our export earnings have been adversely affected. For the period January-May 1958, these earnings were lower by Rs. 28 crores as compared to the corresponding period of 1957. There was a decline of Rs. 2.5 crores in the exports to the dollar area and of Rs. 25.5 crores to the rest of the world. A large part of this latter decline was due to special factors, such as the earlier overstocking in the case of tea in the U.K. But, the recessionary trends abroad have reacted adversely on our exports of manganese ore, pepper, etc.

(c) Every effort is being made to step up our exports as part of the overall problem of reducing the foreign exchange gap.

Study of South Indian Languages

*209. Shri D. C. Sharma: Will the Minister of Education be pleased to state:

(a) how many Universities in North India have established departments for the study of some South Indian languages; and