

Box-strapping

*1090. { Shri Vajpayee:
Shri Asmar:

Will the Minister of Steel, Mines and Fuel be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that free sale of 25 per cent frozen stocks of box-strapping imported on commercial accounts has been sanctioned;

(b) whether it is also a fact that the importers are allowed free sale of 25 per cent of materials in addition to that; and

(c) if so, the reasons thereof?

The Minister of Steel, Mines and Fuel (Sardar Swaran Singh) (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Box strappings are not distributed against quotas. With a view to ensure equitable distribution of the limited imports, the commercially imported stocks are frozen and distributed to major essential consumers. In order to enable the small consumers to obtain their requirements directly from the importers, free sale of 25 per cent of the imported stocks has been allowed.

Balance of Payments with U.K.

*1091. Sardar Iqbal Singh: Will the Minister of Finance be pleased to state

(a) the present position of India's balance of payments with the United Kingdom; and

(b) in case it is adverse, the steps that are being taken to meet it?

The Deputy Minister of Finance (Shri B. E. Bhagat): (a) According to the latest available data, India's balance of payments with the United Kingdom showed a current account deficit of Rs. 87.2 crores during April-September 1958, as compared to Rs. 92.1 crores during the corresponding period of 1957.

(b) As I have stated in reply to similar questions on previous occasions, we are already making the maximum possible effort to bridge the gap in the overall balance of payments through export promotion, curtailment of imports and securing of external assistance. It is the overall balance that is of greater significance for policy rather than the surplus or deficit with any one country or group of countries.

Temporary Assistants

✓ *1092. Shrimati Sucheta Kripalani: Will the Minister of Home Affairs be pleased to refer to the reply given to Unstarred Question No. 2118 on the 18th December, 1958 and state how long it will take to finalise the confirmations of the Assistants who have put in 10 to 15 years' service and are still temporary?

The Minister of State in the Ministry of Home Affairs (Shri Datar): The confirmation of these temporary Assistants being contingent on the availability of the required number of permanent vacancies in the departmental quota, no definite time-limit can be indicated. Confirmations will be effected as and when vacancies for this purpose become available.

Sanskrit Commission

Shri Ram Krishan Gupta:
Shri Shree Narayan Dass:
Shri D. C. Sharma:
Shri Bhakt Darshan:
Shri Vajpayee:

*1093. { Shri S. C. Samanta:
Shri Subodh Hansda
Shri Padam Dev:
Shri Supakar:
Shri Bibhuti Mishra:
Shri Jhulan Sinha:
Shri A. K. Gopalan:
Shri Kodliyan:
Shri Ajit Singh Sarhadi:
Shri Prakash V. Shastri:

Will the Minister of Education be pleased to refer to the reply given to Starred Question No. 816 on the 10th December, 1958, and state:

(a) whether recommendations made by the Sanskrit Commission have

been examined by the State Governments and Universities;

(b) if so, nature of their comments, and

(c) specific proposals formulated and decisions taken?

The Minister of Education (Dr. K. L. Shrimall): (a) Comments from 7 State Governments/Union Territory Administrations, 19 Universities and the University Grants Commission are still awaited. They have stated that the matter is under their consideration.

(b) The comments so far received are generally favourable on most of the proposals.

(c) Does not arise.

Coal Production

*1094 **Shri D. C. Sharma:** Will the Minister of Steel, Mines and Fuel be pleased to state

(a) how much of the target of production of coal fixed for the Second Five Year Plan has been achieved upto 1958-59, and

(b) whether any programme for mechanising coal mines has been drawn up?

The Minister for Steel, Mines and Fuel (Sardar Swaran Singh): (a) Against the target of 22 million tons of additional production, a little over 7 million tons has been achieved by the end of December, 1958.

(b) There is no overall programme for mechanising coal mines. The Coal Board has, however, laid down that all layouts in new mines and seams should be worked mechanically to the extent possible. New mines in the public sector are being planned on the basis of maximum mechanisation.

Universal Copyright Convention

*1095 **Shri Vajpayee:** Will the Minister of Scientific Research and Cultural Affairs be pleased to state.

(a) whether Government has been experiencing any difficulty or short-

coming in respect of the existing provisions of the Universal Copyright Convention, 1952,

(b) if so, the difficulties experienced,

(c) whether Government has made any suggestions to the UNESCO in this regard,

(d) the suggestions made, and

(e) the response thereto?

The Minister of Scientific Research and Cultural Affairs (Shri Humayun Kabir): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The lack of a provision in the Convention requiring a member State to prosecute its national who infringes copyright belonging to the national of another member State.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) That the Convention should provide for member States instituting criminal proceedings against infringers of copyright residing within their jurisdiction, at the motion of the Government to which the lawful owner of copyright may belong.

(e) An early decision is not expected, as all member States will have to be consulted.

System of Examinations

*1096 **Sardar Iqbal Singh:** Will the Minister of Education be pleased to refer to the reply given to Starred Question No 778 on the 10th December, 1958 and lay a statement on the Table showing:

(a) whether Government have received the final report of the UNESCO Regional Seminar on Educational Reform for South and South-East Asia which met in Delhi and had recommended a change in the character of examination system in India and other countries in the region,

(b) if so, its details, and

(c) the reaction of Government to this recommendation?