

(c) the response of Government to this request?

The Minister of Commerce (Shri Kanungo): (a) The Delhi Municipal Corporation has not filed any request for grant of a licence of the value of Rs. 6 lakhs.

(b) and (c). Do not arise.

Academic Courses by All India Radio

*2150. Shri Rameshwar Tanti: Will the Minister of Information and Broadcasting be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that All India Radio is working on a project to introduce regular academic courses over the radio; and

(b) if so, what are the details of the project?

The Minister of Information and Broadcasting (Dr. Keskar): (a) and (b). All India Radio is not thinking of introducing regular academic courses on matters already covered by Universities but it is proposed to broadcast in co-operation with the Universities, special series of programmes designed to increase the general knowledge of listeners and supplement academic learning. It is proposed to work out a detailed scheme in collaboration with some Universities

Export of Manganese Ore

*2151. Shri Panigrahi: Will the Minister of Commerce and Industry be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the representatives posted in India of American importers have stopped their purchases of manganese ore anticipating low price in the barter deal; and

(b) whether it is also a fact that State Trading Corporation have requested all mine-owners to reduce their prices and publicise the same through a Sales Committee?

The Deputy Minister of Commerce and Industry (Shri Satish Chandra): (a) and (b). No, Sir.

Tea Trade with Iran

*2152. Shri P. C. Borooah: Will the Minister of Commerce and Industry be pleased to state:

(a) whether the attention of Government has been drawn to the report published in the Assam Tribune of April 6, 1959, that the Leader of the Iranian delegation had stated that Iran was ready to buy quality Indian tea if the Indian Government could help lower the price; and

(b) if so, the reactions of Government thereto?

The Deputy Minister of Commerce and Industry (Shri Satish Chandra):

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Like other countries, Iran buys her requirements from free auctions where competitive bids for tea are made. It is obviously not possible for the Government of India to interfere with the established market mechanism

Contribution to Coal Mines Provident Fund

*2153. Shri T. B. Vittal Rao: Will the Minister of Labour and Employment be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have assessed the liability on the Coal Industry if the contribution to Coal Mines Provident Fund is raised from 6½ to 8½ per cent;

(b) if so, whether it could be met by the Industry from its own resources without resorting to increase in the price of coal; and

(c) if the reply to part (b) above be in the negative by how much the coal price has to be increased?

The Deputy Minister of Labour (Shri Abid Ali): (a) No.

(b) and (c). Do not arise.