

currency and thus save our foreign exchange?

**Mr. Speaker:** That is a suggestion for action.

**Shri Sadhan Gupta:** As we understand from Press reports Egypt is insisting on payment in dollars in respect of Suez Canal tolls, has any understanding been reached with Egypt that in the case of our country the payment will be made either in rupee or in any other soft currency?

**Shri Jawaharlal Nehru:** I have just said, Sir, that I am not acquainted as to how this matter has been paid or whether any special understanding has been reached. No question has arisen. We have been carrying on in the old way. But, as, perhaps the House knows, we have given certain credits in rupees to the Egyptian Government our dealings are by and large in rupees. About this particular matter I do not know.

**Government of India Press in Kerala**

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\*11. { **Shri A. M. Thomas:**  
**Shri K. K. Warrior:**

Will the Minister of Works, Housing and Supply be pleased to state:

(a) whether the work in connection with the starting of the Government of India Press in Kerala has commenced;

(b) when it is expected to be completed; and

(c) what the employment potential of the Press is?

**The Minister of Works, Housing and Supply (Shri K. C. Reddy):** (a) No Sir; steps have however, been taken to acquire the land.

(b) By the end of the Second Five Year Plan.

(c) As at present conceived, about 400 persons are expected to be employed in the Press when it gets into production.

**Shri A. M. Thomas:** The original idea was to locate one press, of a particular size, in the South. May I enquire whether the decision has been subsequently revised and there has been a proposal to locate two presses in the South and if so, of what size?

**Shri K. C. Reddy:** My information is that it was decided to start two presses in the South, one at Coimbatore and the other in Kerala. I do not know to what the hon. Member referred to.

**Shri A. M. Thomas:** The two presses referred were meant by me. Will they be started simultaneously or will they be started one after the other?

**Shri K. C. Reddy:** The intention is to start them simultaneously. One press is meant for printing forms and the other press is for printing books.

**Shri Punnoose:** May I know what will be the estimated amount for the press that is going to be started in Kerala?

**Shri K. C. Reddy:** The press to be started in Kerala is for printing forms and the estimate for the construction of the press would be about Rs. 45 lakhs for the buildings and about Rs. 26 lakhs for equipment.

**Shrimati Parvathi Krishnan:** May I know what would be the estimate for the press to be started in Coimbatore?

**Shri K. C. Reddy:** I have no information at present with me about that.

**Seizure of Passport by Pakistan**

\*13. **Pandit D. N. Tiwary:** Will the Prime Minister be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Pakistan Government has seized all the passports within the ten mile border belt between Tripura and East-Pakistan;

(b) if so, whether Government are aware of the hardships of the people of that belt and the losses occurring due to this arbitrary action of the Pakistan Government;

(c) steps taken to relieve the hardships of the people of that area;

(d) whether Government has lodged any protest; and

(e) if so, the reply of the Pakistan Government?

**The Deputy Minister of External Affairs (Shrimati Lakshmi N. Menon):** (a) to (e). The information is being collected and will be placed on the Table of the house when available.

**Pandit D. N. Tiwary:** May I know whether the Government have seen the newspaper report that seizure of passports has taken place and may I know whether the Government are aware that people on the border are suffering from want of markets, etc? May I know whether that aspect has been considered by the Government and any step taken?

**The Prime Minister and Minister of External Affairs (Shri Jawaharlal Nehru):** This question, Sir, calls for detailed information which was sought, and it is very difficult to supply this without full enquiry. There is no doubt that people in the border areas are often harassed and put to great difficulties by various actions taken. The general answer is 'Yes', but, if the hon. Member wants detailed information, we have to get it.

#### Shankar Market

\*14. **Shri Gajendra Prasad Sinha:** Will the Minister of Rehabilitation and Minority Affairs be pleased to state:

(a) whether allotment of commercial flats of Shankar Market, New Delhi has been completed; and

(b) what procedure was followed for allotment of above flats?

**The Minister of Rehabilitation and Minority Affairs (Shri Mehr Chand Khanna):** (a) Yes, the allotment of commercial flats constructed in

Shankar Market so far has been completed.

(b) In most cases, allotment has been made to eligible displaced persons by drawing lots. In some cases, allotment has been made to fulfil the commitments made by the erstwhile Delhi State Government or the Government of India.

**Shri Gajendra Prasad Sinha:** Has Government received any complaint that more than one flat has been allotted to different persons in the same family?

**Shri Mehr Chand Khanna:** If the complaint is brought to my notice, I will certainly have it looked into.

**Shri Gajendra Prasad Sinha:** May I know whether the eligibility of the persons was checked up and whether they were informed about the date and place of allotment?

**Shri Mehr Chand Khanna:** The allotment, as I have stated in reply to the main question, has been made on two bases: one, to those persons to whom commitments have been given by the erstwhile Delhi State Government, and secondly, to others by drawing of lots, that is, allotments are made by drawing of lots. Information, as far as I know, is definitely sent.

**Shri B. S. Murthy:** May I know why the persons on the Irwin Road flats were not given any allotment in spite of their having proved their credentials?

**Shri Mehr Chand Khanna:** If any particular case is brought to my notice, as I said in respect of the question of the hon. Member who tabled the main question, I will have it looked into. But these flats and shops were originally meant for the squatters on the Irwin Road.

**श्री नवल प्रभाकर :** क्या मैं जान सकता हूँ कि इस मार्केट के निर्माण में कितना खर्च हुआ है और कितनी दुकानें बनायी गयी हैं?

**श्री मेहरचन्द खन्ना :** यह तो मुझे याद