

(b) whether it is a fact that the construction, already officially approved, of a fire proof building in the Museum compound for housing certain zoological exhibits has not been proceeded with?

The Minister of State in the Ministry of Education and Scientific Research (Dr. K. L. Shrimall): (a) Steps have been taken to provide additional space.

(b) No, Sir.

Shri H. N. Mukerjee: In view of the fact that the Indian Museum has the largest and most representative collection in the country and is visited by an enormous number of people from all parts of the country, will the Government give an assurance that there is no intention to refuse its developmental requirements and reduce its importance in the cultural set-up?

Dr. K. L. Shrimall: No. Government have no intention to reduce its importance. In fact, they would like to increase its importance.

Shri H. N. Mukerjee: May I know if it is not a fact that the Planning Commission's allocations for different museums and their development are, on account of certain delay in connection with the Indian Museum, likely to be diverted elsewhere to the detriment of the Indian Museum's legitimate needs?

Dr. K. L. Shrimall: I am not aware of it. I will look into the question.

Shri S. V. Ramaswami: May I request that in view of its importance, Q. 92 may be answered?

Mr. Speaker: Does the hon. Member mean the question relating to sterling balances? The Question Hour is over. If the Minister is willing to answer, I have no objection.

Shri T. T. Krishnamachari: I do not mind. But I have said all that I possibly can say yesterday. I do not mind answering the question, if that is the direction of the Chair.

Mr. Speaker: I am not interested one way or the other. If the Minister thinks that something more has to be said regarding this matter, I have no objection to allow him to say it.

Shri T. T. Krishnamachari: I have got the answer. I shall read it out if the Chair permits me to do so.

Mr. Speaker: I have no objection.

#### Sterling Balances

\*92. { Shri S. V. Ramaswami:  
Shri L. N. Mishra:  
Shrimati Tarkeshwari Sinha:

Will the Minister of Finance be pleased to state:

(a) the present position of India's sterling balance;

(b) the rate at which it is being withdrawn per month;

(c) the steps Government have taken to stem the drain; and

(d) how far they have proved effective?

The Minister of Finance (Shri T. T. Krishnamachari): (a) On the 3rd May, 1957, the sterling balances amounted to Rs. 496.42 crores.

(b) About Rs. 24 crores a month on the average since May 1956.

(c) and (d). I would invite a reference to my budget speech of yesterday and the White paper thereon.

Shri S. V. Ramaswami: Are there any special reasons for this pressure on the sterling balances now?

Shri T. T. Krishnamachari: I had dealt with it yesterday in my budget speech. I would like my hon. friend to read it.

Mr. Speaker: The hon. Member heard the whole story yesterday.

Shrimati Tarkeshwari Sinha: In view of the fact that a major portion of the sterling balances is going away in the import of capital goods and machinery, may I know how we are

going to check this flow without affecting the import of capital goods and machinery in the near future?

**Shri T. T. Krishnamachari:** The hon. lady Member has stated the problem and also answered it.

**Shrimati Tarekshwari Sinha:** But the Minister has not answered it.

**Mr. Speaker:** He says that the hon. Member herself has answered the question.

We shall now take up the short notice question.

**Shri S. M. Banerjee:** I wish to say that I had given notice calling the attention of the Defence Minister.....

**Mr. Speaker:** Order, order. We are now taking up the short notice question.

#### Short Notice Question and Answer

##### Pakistan propaganda against India

**S. N. Q. No. 2 Shri Raghunath Singh:** Will the Prime Minister be pleased to state whether it is a fact that on the basis of an alleged secret Indo-Soviet plot, Pakistan press has started vicious propaganda against India to the effect that India has secretly negotiated with Russia the political division of Afghanistan?

**The Prime Minister and Minister of External Affairs (Shri Jawaharlal Nehru):** The hon. Member has sent this question in Hindi. But he has put the question in English now.

**Shri Raghunath Singh:** I was supplied with the English version only.

**Shri Jawaharlal Nehru:** I do not mind. I can answer it in either or in both.

**Mr. Speaker:** The best thing is to answer it in English.

**Shri Jawaharlal Nehru:** The statements appearing in some newspapers

in Pakistan about some secret plot are entirely without the least substance or foundation. India has no secret plots or arrangements, formal or informal, with any country. The only kind of treaties we have made with other countries are treaties of friendship or cultural or trade treaties, which have been published. There have not been at any time any talks with any country about any secret arrangements.

The allegation made in the Pakistan press is fantastic and apparently it was intended to create ill-will between India and neighbouring countries with whom India is on terms of close friendship.

**Shri B. S. Murthy:** Is there any remedy to cure the Pakistan press of these periodical vicious attacks?

**Shri Jawaharlal Nehru:** There may be a remedy, but it is not in our hands.

**Shri Joachim Alva:** May I know the formal or informal provisions of the Nehru-Liaquat Ali Pact in regard to a case wherein lying propaganda is involved on either side? Is this a case of that type?

**Shri Jawaharlal Nehru:** I do not remember the exact wording. But I think the hon. Member is correct in saying that there was a reference in that document to attempts being made in both countries to calm down the atmosphere, so as not to do anything which would needlessly excite people.

**Shri Sadhan Gupta:** May I know whether this kind of propaganda has had any adverse effect in Afghanistan, and if so, whether any steps have been taken by our Embassy at Kabul to counteract this propaganda?

**Shri Jawaharlal Nehru:** I cannot say what effect it might have had in the minds of some people there. I do not think that responsible people in Afghanistan attach any importance to this kind of thing. As for steps taken by us, our Embassy there always explains anything that is necessary. I