

(a) whether Government have accepted the recommendation of the All India Educational Editors' Conference (recently held in Delhi) for arranging short term refresher course in journalism; and

(b) whether any permanent Institution will be established for the purpose?

The Minister of State in the Ministry of Education and Scientific Research (Dr. K. L. Shrimall): (a) The recommendation is now under consideration of the Government of India.

(b) The Conference has not recommended the establishment of any permanent Institution. However, the matter will be examined in connection with the recommendation mentioned in Part (a) of the Question.

राम न्य निर्वाचन

*९८. श्री वि.भूति मिश्र: क्या विधि मंत्री यह बनाने की छुपा करेगे कि :

(क) क्या यह सच है कि कुछ निर्वाचन-क्षेत्रों में लोक-सभा और विधान मण्डलों के उम्मीदवारों के निर्वाचन के लिये मतदान एक ही दिन में समाप्त हो गया जब कि कुछ क्षेत्रों में दो सप्ताह तक चरता रहा; और

(ख) यदि हाँ, तो इसके कारण क्या हैं।

विधि मंत्र: (अ. ए.०. के.०. सेन) (क) जी हाँ।

(ख) मुझे निर्वाचन आयोग से ज्ञात हुआ है कि कुछ निर्वाचन क्षेत्रों में निर्वाचन सम्बन्धी कार्यचारियों की कमी, परिवहन और संचार तथा पुलिस प्रबन्ध सम्बन्धी कठिनाइयों आदि जैसी कुछ प्रशासनिक कठिनाइयों के कारण मतदान कई दिनों तक कराना पड़ा।

Excavations at Chandraketugarh

*100. Shri H. N. Mukerjee: Will the Minister of Education and Scientific Research be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are assisting the reported excavation by Cal-

cutta University at Chandraketugarh—23 miles from Calcutta—where remains of the 3rd Century B. C. and subsequent period, have been found; and

(b) the expert findings so far regarding the nature of the site and the trial diggings?

The Minister of State in the Ministry of Education and Scientific Research (Dr. K. L. Shrimall): (a) Permission has been accorded by the Department of Archaeology to the Calcutta University to conduct excavations at one or two selected sites within the fort. No financial or technical assistance has, however, been given.

(b) The University of Calcutta has been asked to submit the report which is awaited.

Decimal Coinage

Shri Shree Narayan Das:
Shri A. K. Gopalan:
Shri Sadhan Gupta:
Pandit M. B. Bhargava:
Shri Bhakt Darshan:
*101. Shri N. Keshava:
Shri Bibhuti Mishra:
Shri Wodeyar:
Shri H. N. Mukerjee:
Shri Supakar:
Shri Mool Chand:

Will the Minister of Finance be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have received reactions from the public in general, State Governments and other non-official organisations in particular, as to the difficulties experienced by the public as a result of the introduction of decimal coinage;

(b) if so, the nature of such difficulties; and

(c) the steps taken to remove them?

The Deputy Minister of Finance (Shri B. E. Bhagat): (a) Yes, sir.

(b) The difficulties reported have been of a varied nature. Among the

more important were those against the adjustments in postal rates, State Transport fares in certain areas and increase in the price of small units of certain goods sold by shopkeepers etc.

(c) The D.G. P&T and West Bengal Government have already taken local action to meet the complaints in Calcutta. Furthermore, the posts & Telegraphs Department soon expect to have only new denomination postage stamps and stationery on sale and this will stop the difficulty experienced. The complaint about increased prices charged by private parties is not related directly to the coinage reform. It is expected that the ordinary processes of demand and supply will soon ensure better balance in prices. The three Government of India Mints are working to full capacity to produce coins of the new denominations and Government are confident that as soon as the supply of these is plentiful the complaints which are already dying down will disappear altogether.

Life Insurance Business

103. { Shri Harish Chandra Mathur:
Shri D. C. Sharma:
Shri Bhakt Darshan:
Shri Anirudha Sinha:
Shri Radha Raman:
Kumari Mothey Veda Kumari:

Will the Minister of Finance be pleased to refer to the reply given to Starred Question No. 268 on the 21st November, 1956 and state:

(a) the extent to which the life insurance business has gone down from month to month since nationalisation;

(b) the reasons for the same; and

(c) what action, if any, Government propose to take to arrest the decline and to step up and stimulate business?

The Deputy Minister of Finance (Shri B. K. Bhagat): (a) to (c). A statement is laid on the Table of the

House. (See Appendix I Annexure No. 27).

Budget Leakage Case

*103. Shri D. C. Sharma: Will the Minister of Home Affairs be pleased to refer to the reply given to Unstarred Question No. 45 on the 26th March, 1957 and state the progress, upto-date, of the proceedings in the criminal case filed in connection with the leakage of taxation proposals contained in the Budget for 1956-57?

The Minister of State in the Ministry of Home Affairs (Shri Datar): The case is still pending in the Court.

Return of U.S. Lend-Lease Silver

- *104. { Shri S. V. Ramaswamy:
Shrimati Tarkeshwari Sinha:
Shri Raghunath Singh:

Will the Minister of Finance be pleased to state:

(a) the extent of our liability to repay silver to U. S. A. and to what extent we have honoured our obligation; and

(b) whether any negotiation is afoot to create a Fund in India in respect of the balance of silver due to U. S. A. to finance the Second Five Year Plan on the lines of the recent Indo-U. S. agreement on agricultural produce loan?

The Deputy Minister of Finance (Shri B. K. Bhagat): (a) The extent of India Government's liability to return silver to the U.S. Government is for approximately 172 million ounces. The date for the return of the silver was 28th April, 1957, and the following arrangements have been agreed to between the two Governments:

(i) The Government of India is to make immediate arrangement for the shipment of approximately 50 million fine ounces of silver of the requisite fineness in the form of bars to the U.S. Government.