

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.