

Upgrading of High Schools

*353. **Shri Supakar:** Will the Minister of Education and Scientific Research be pleased to state:

(a) the number of high Schools in different States of India, which have been upgraded to Higher Secondary Schools during 1956-57 as recommended by the Secondary Education Re-organisation Commission; and

(b) the financial assistance given by the Government of India to each State on this account during the same period?

The Minister of State in the Ministry of Education and Scientific Research (Dr. K. L. Shrimall): (a) and (b). A Statement is laid on the Table of the Sabha. [See Appendix II, annexure No. 54.]

Grant to Assam

*354. **Shri Hazarika:** Will the Minister of Finance be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a sum of over Rs. 10 crores has been returned to the Centre by the State Government of Assam as the latter could not spend the same in the financial year of 1956-57 under various schemes of the Second Five Year Plan; and

(b) the names of the schemes and the respective sums allotted to and spent for such schemes?

The Minister of Finance (Shri T. T. Krishnamachari): (a) and (b). No, Sir, so far as this Ministry are concerned, they have no such information.

Library Service

*355. **Shri Shree Narayan Das:** Will the Minister of Education and Scientific Research be pleased to state:

(a) the total amount to be spent in Library Service Scheme during the Second Plan Period; and

(b) whether any special organisation to carry out the scheme is contemplated?

The Minister of State in the Ministry of Education and Scientific Research (Dr. K. L. Shrimall):

(a) Rs. 165.22 lakhs. This is, however, subject to change by State Governments & Union Territories in consultation with Planning Commission.

(b) No, Sir. The State Governments and the Union Territories would be implementing the Scheme.

Seminar on the Blind

*356. **Shri D. C. Sharma:** Will the Minister of Education and Scientific Research be pleased to state:

(a) whether the recommendations of the seminar on the Blind held at Mussoorie in September, 1956, have since been considered; and

(b) if so, which of them have been accepted?

The Minister of State in the Ministry of Education and Scientific Research (Dr. K. L. Shrimall): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The recommendations have been accepted in principle.

Industrial Finance Corporation

*357. **Shri L. N. Mishra:** Will the Minister of Finance be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Industrial Finance Corporation intends to seek a loan from the International Bank of Reconstruction and Development; and

(b) if so, the amount and purpose of the loan?

The Deputy Minister of Finance (Shri B. R. Bhagat): (a) and (b). The matter is yet under consideration.

Gold Smuggling

*360. { **Shri Raghunath Singh:**
Pandit M. B. Bhargava:
Shri Barupal:
Shri A. S. Sarhadl:

Will the Minister of Finance be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that gold smuggling has been on the increase on the Indo-Pakistan border:

(b) if so, its effects on India's economy; and

(c) the steps that have been taken to tighten the watch on frontier borders to detect gold smuggling?

The Deputy Minister of Finance (Shri B. R. Bhagat): (a) The information available with the Government indicates that of late there might have been some increase in the smuggling of gold across the Indo-Pakistan Border.

(b) Apart from the loss of revenue, the general effect of large scale smuggling of gold would be to impose additional strain on the foreign Exchange reserves of the country, and hamper through hoarding or other unproductive use, capital formation for productive purposes.

(c) Various and progressively intensive steps are being continuously taken by the Government of India to combat smuggling on the Indo-Pakistan Border.

Central Sales Tax, 1956

- *361. {
 Shri Radha Raman:
 Shri L. N. Mishra:
 Shri Raghunath Singh:
 Shri S. M. Banerjee:

Will the Minister of Finance be pleased to state:

(a) whether the suggestion that sales tax on some commodities should be recovered by adding it to excise duty has been considered by Government;

(b) if so, which are these commodities; and

(c) decision taken in the matter?

The Deputy Minister of Finance (Shri B. R. Bhagat): (a) Yes. A scheme is being processed in consultation with State Governments.

(b) These commodities are—textiles, tobacco including manufactured tobacco and sugar.

(c) The matter is still under correspondence with State Governments.

Orders placed with Ordnance factories

*362. **Shri T. B. Vittal Rao:** Will the Minister of Defence be pleased to state:

(a) the number of orders placed with Ordnance Factories in India that were outstanding at the end of the financial year 1956-57;

(b) the factories with which the orders were placed and the approximate period for which the orders have been outstanding;

(c) the nature of the stores and equipment involved;

(d) the reasons for the delay in execution of the orders; and

(e) the steps taken by Government to eliminate the delays?

The Deputy Minister of Defence (Sardar Majithia): (a) The number of overdue orders outstanding on the Ordnance Factories on the 1st April, 1957 was 5198.

(b) The orders were placed on all the Ordnance Factories. About 900 of the orders are outstanding from 1950-51 or earlier; about 800 from 1951-52 and about a 1000 each year from 1952-53 onwards.

(c) The orders comprise various kinds of Service stores, equipments, weapons and their spare parts.

(d) and (e). A statement is laid on the Table of the House. [See Appendix II, annexure No. 55.]

Finance Commission

*363. **Shri Bibhuti Mishra:** Will the Minister of Finance be pleased to state when the final report of the Finance Commission is expected to be submitted?

The Deputy Minister of Finance (Shri B. R. Bhagat): As at present understood by about the end of August, 1957.

Hindi as Medium of Instruction

*364. **Shri Wodeyar:** Will the Minister of Education and Scientific Re-