

**The Minister of Commerce (Shri Karmarkar):** (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (d). A statement is placed on the Table of the House. [See Appendix XI, annexure No. 16]

(c) Information is not available with us.

**Shri L. J. Singh:** I find in the statement item No. 20, "Barter agreements should not be ruled out altogether but their possibilities examined" May I know whether it is a fact that Russia agreed to send goods to India and other under-developed countries in South East Asia and Far-East on a barter system, and if so, how far India is agreeable to the proposal?

**Shri Karmarkar:** I understand that the representative of the USSR threw out a general suggestion in that regard.

**Shri L. J. Singh:** I find item No. 3. "Continuation and strengthening of international trade fairs by countries of the Region". May I know how many international fairs were held in 1952-53 and if so, the names of the countries where such fairs were held?

**Shri Karmarkar:** About fairs. I should like to have notice. About the Region, this conference was held about 1½ months back.

**Shri L. J. Singh:** May I know whether France also agreed to extend trade concessions to India and other South East Asia and Far East Countries, and if so, what are they?

**Shri Karmarkar:** Every country put forward general offers. The conference was in the nature of general exchange of information. The conference was not meant to take the place of a conference for entering into bilateral and multilateral agreements. In the circumstances, my hon. friend will easily realise that it was in the nature of evolving some common points of agreement in respect of the promotion of the trade of the region as a whole.

**Shri K. K. Basu:** May I know whether positive steps have been taken by the Government to accept this offer and to translate into action the wishes that were mooted at this conference?

**Shri Karmarkar:** At the relevant time and in the proper manner, yes.

#### COAL BOARD

\*1859. **Shri K. C. Sodhia:** (a) Will the Minister of Production be pleased to state the present personnel of the Coal Board?

(b) How many representatives of Indian Colliery Owners' Association are on the Board?

(c) What is the total amount administered by the Board?

(d) What is the control exercised by Government on the Board?

(e) In what ways are the activities of this Board brought to the notice of Parliament?

**The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Production (Shri R. G. Dubey):** (a) A statement containing the information is laid on the Table of the House.

(b) None.

(c) About Rs. 85 lakhs annually.

(d) The control exercised by the Government falls broadly under three heads:

**Budgetary:**—The Budget of the Board has been brought under the Appropriation Account and the accounts of the Board are audited by the Comptroller and Auditor General of India.

**Financial:**—The Board should obtain the prior approval of the Government in the following cases:—

(i) all appointments on a salary, the maximum of which exceeds Rs. 500 p.m.

(ii) protective works costing more than Rs. 1 lakh in each case.

(iii) non-recurring expenditure exceeding Rs. 10,000 in each case.

**General:**—The Central Government may review any decision of the Board.

(e) The Budget of the Coal Board is voted by Parliament. The accounts of the Board will also be laid before Parliament.

#### STATEMENT

##### Personnel of the Coal Board

Shri R. K. Ramadhyani	Coal Commissioner	Chairman
Shri N. Barraclough	Chief Inspector of Mines	Members
Shri L. S. Corbett	Chief Mining Engineer (Railway Board)/ Deputy Coal Commissioner (Production)	
Shri A. B. Guha	Superintendent of Collieries—Member-Secretary.	
Shri M. L. Shome	Deputy Coal Commissioner (Distribution)	

**Shri K. C. Sodhia:** Do the activities of the Board affect the colliery owners?

**Shri R. G. Dubey:** No.

**Shri M. L. Dwivedi:** Are the activities of the Board being extended or are likely to be extended in any other direction regarding advice on washing coals, refinement and betterment of coal and if so whether changes are being proposed in the constitution of the Board or of the bodies working under it?

**Shri R. G. Dubey:** For the present no changes are contemplated. The Advisory Committees have to be formally regulated. For the present, certain committees are there which are functioning, informally. Under section 15 of the Coal Mines Conservation Act, there is provision for setting up advisory committees. They will have three functions: technical advice on mining, stowing and research work.

**Shri K. C. Sodhia:** Will the Government say that the activities of the Board do not affect the colliery owners at all?

**Shri R. G. Dubey:** No; not to my knowledge.

**Shri K. C. Sodhia:** Does not the Coal Board deal with coal?

**Shri R. G. Dubey:** I mean, not prejudicially.

**Shri K. K. Basu:** May we know if the interests of the Indian owned collieries are represented in any way and if so in what numbers?

**Shri R. G. Dubey:** As I said just now, so far as the Advisory Committee is concerned, in this Stowing Advisory Committee the coal industry including the Indian Colliery owners' Association is represented.

#### GOVERNMENT PUBLICATIONS

\*1861. **Shri Madiah Gowda:** Will the Minister of Works, Housing and Supply be pleased to state:

(a) the basis on which Government fix the prices for their publications; and

(b) whether they can be made cheaper so that a greater number of people may be able to purchase them?

**The Deputy Minister of Works, Housing and Supply (Shri Buragohain):** (a) The cost of produc-

tion plus 60 per cent. for incidental expenses, which does not include any element of profit, is taken as the basis for fixing the price of a publication.

(b) Under the rules, the price can be fixed at a lower figure, when there are strong public grounds for doing so.

**Shri Madiah Gowda:** May I know whether it is not a fact that a large number of publications are, on account of their being costly, not being sold, and hence had to be destroyed?

**Shri Buragohain:** I am not aware of any such thing. If the hon. Member has got any information, and if he passes that on to me, I will enquire.

**Shri Madiah Gowda:** May I also know whether the publications such as the Five-year Plan and the Constitution of India, etc., which are required to be read widely by the people will be made very cheap so that all people may be able to purchase them?

**Shri Buragohain:** That is a suggestion for action. Obviously, there is interdependence between the number of copies to be printed and their likely sale and the price. The larger the number, the lesser the cost.

**Shri B. S. Murthy:** Is the Minister aware that there are a number of applicants who are not able to get a copy of the Five-year Plan?

**Shri Buragohain:** I should like to have notice in regard to any particular publication.

**Shri B. S. Murthy:** Is it the intention of the Government to reduce the price of the Five-year Plan for popularising the publication?

**Mr. Deputy-Speaker:** The question was already put and the hon. Minister said it was a suggestion for action. Next question.

#### IMPORT OF WATCHES, FOUNTAIN-PENS AND SPECTACLES

\*1862. **Shri Jhulan Sinha:** Will the Minister of Commerce and Industry be pleased to state:

(a) the amount of dollars consumed in the import of watches, fountain-pens and spectacles from the hard currency areas in 1952-53; and

(b) the scope for restriction in the import from these areas in the general interests of dollar conservation by importing from other areas?