

**Shri T. T. Krishnamachari:** As I said, Sir, on the last occasion one of the contributory factors has been the stopping of stockpiling by Australia. The other factor was shortage of labour which made them go for bulk storage rather than storage in bags.

**Dr. M. M. Das:** The hon. Minister said that our exports have improved by 50 per cent. May I know the reasons for improvement of our exports? Is it due to decrease in export duty, or increase in demand in foreign countries?

**Shri T. T. Krishnamachari:** These two factors and a third factor in addition, a desire on the part of the Australian Government to buy goods in a cheaper market, so that they can pool their prices of the stock they have purchased at a higher price and sell it at a lower price to consumers.

**Shri L. N. Mishra:** May I know whether any specific effort has been made to stimulate export of jute goods to U.S.A. and Argentina also?

**Shri T. T. Krishnamachari:** Government have no specific scheme so far as U.S.A. is concerned. The IJMA has a scheme for promotion of exports. So far as Argentina is concerned the market is extremely temperamental; it goes up and down. I do not know if, in the circumstances, it would be wise either for Government or for IJMA to embark on any expenditure to stimulate exports.

#### SCREENING COMMITTEE

\*254. **Shri Bhagwat Jha:** Will the Minister of Information and Broadcasting be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Screening Committee set up for grading the Hindi and English news readers has submitted its recommendations to Government;

(b) if so, whether Government have considered the same; and

(c) how long it will take to implement them?

**The Minister of Information and Broadcasting (Dr. Keskar):** (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The matter is under consideration.

(c) Action would be taken soon after recommendations have been examined.

**Shri Bhagwat Jha:** May I know, Sir, what are the reasons for the great delay and who are the persons who have been put in A grade?

**Dr. Keskar:** I am afraid, Sir, I won't be able to disclose the information, as it is confidential. I might inform the hon. member that the committee, to which he has made reference is a departmental committee appointed by us in order to help us know the merits of the various people in an impartial way and not a statutory committee at all. The recommendations made by the Committee are not obligatory. They will be considered and action will be taken upon them as we consider suitable. All such recommendations are confidential and I am afraid I will not be able to disclose them.

**Mr. Speaker:** He wants to know the reason for the delay.

**Dr. Keskar:** It has only recently been sent to us and the recommendations will help us in fixing the pay and grades of the persons concerned. Automatically it is not possible to apply them to the various persons who are drawing various grades of pay.

**Shri Bhagwat Jha:** In view of the fact that there is a great disparity between the scales of pay of the English news readers and the Hindi news readers, is it not a fact that some officers in the A.I.R. are suppressing the recommendations of this committee?

**Mr. Speaker:** Order, order. Has he any other question?

**Shri Bhagwat Jha:** Yes, Sir. May I know, Sir, how many news bulletins Hindi and English are read every day and the number of such news readers in both sections?

**Dr. Keskar:** If a question is tabled I shall be very glad to supply the information.

**Shri B. S. Murthy:** When some of the recommendations of this Committee are put into force, may I know whether they will come into force with retrospective effect?

**Dr. Keskar:** The Committee has been asked to furnish us with what they think is the quality of the various news readers. As I said—and I repeat—it is not a statutory or Parliamentary Committee. It is a committee which we have appointed in order to enable us to grade people impartially. And it is not possible for me to say at this state whether we will give them pay as is decided from the date of the decision or from before. I cannot say it at this stage.

INTERNATIONAL EXHIBITION ON LOW  
COST HOUSING

\*255. **Dr. M. M. Das:** Will the Minister of Works, Housing and Supply be pleased to state:

(a) the estimated expenditure on the proposed International Exhibition on low cost housing, to be held in January 1954 in New Delhi;

(b) whether the model houses, that will be built, are meant only for private residences or for other purposes also, such as schools, office buildings etc.;

(c) the total number of applications granted for space for building the low cost houses in the exhibition;

(d) the total number of competitors, who have submitted their designs of low cost houses;

(e) the number of foreign concerns and Governments who will take part in the exhibition; and

(f) whether all informations regarding the construction of low cost houses, furnished by the exhibition, will be available to the public, in the form of a publication?

**The Minister of Works, Housing, and Supply (Sardar Swaran Singh):**  
(a) Rs. 9,00,000/- (nine lakhs.)

(b) The model houses will only be of the residential type.

(c) 36 applicants have so far been allotted space for putting up 70 model houses.

(d) 170 designs have been received from 159 competitors.

(e) Fourteen foreign Governments and four foreign concerns are likely to participate.

(f) Yes, Sir.

**Dr. M. M. Das:** May I know whether the firms and individuals who have sent their plans and designs to this exhibition of model houses are entitled to have a patent right over these plans and designs?

**Sardar Swaran Singh:** I do not know as to whether they will be entitled to a patent right. I am still to hear about patent for a design of a house. If there is any scientific discovery involved then there can be a patent.

**Dr. M. M. Das:** May I know whether the plans and designs will be available to the public to build houses without any payment or royalty to the designers?

**Sardar Swaran Singh:** Very much so, Sir.

**Shrimati A. Kale:** May I know whether Government will reconsider their decision and have the exhibition in the third week of December so that all Members of Parliament may see it?

**Mr. Speaker:** Order, order.

**Shri K. K. Basu:** May I know whether these new model houses will have all the materials available in India?