

constructing it, and the Nepal Government will naturally bear the cost of repairs.

Shri K. G. Deshmukh: Has the Nepal Government borne any expenditure on account of this construction?

Shri Tyagi: The whole expenditure is being incurred on behalf of the Nepal Government. It is their road. Only some loan facilities have been granted to them on this account. The money is theirs and the repairs and maintenance will also be looked after by them.

CONTRABAND JEWELLERY

*714. **Shri Gidwani:** Will the Minister of Finance be pleased to state:

(a) whether any jewellery was seized by the Customs officers Bombay, during the years 1951, 1952 and 1953;

(b) whether the jewellery was subsequently restored to the parties after the imposition of a fine or otherwise; and

(c) the reasons for seizing the jewellery?

The Deputy Minister of Finance (Shri A. C. Guha): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) The jewellery was seized for one or more of the following reasons:—

(i) Non-declaration or mis-declaration of value with intent to evade on import of payment of duty or the Import Trade Control restrictions and on export of the restrictions under the Foreign Exchange Control Act.

(ii) Import or attempt to export jewellery unauthorisedly in excess of the permissible limits under the Import Trade Control or Exchange Control restrictions respectively.

Shri Gidwani: May I know whether the jewellery was restored after recovery of fine, or for some other reason?

Shri A. C. Guha: In some cases the fine was realised; in some other cases the parties might have paid the equivalent price. In cases where the explanation was found satisfactory the seized jewellery was returned without any fine.

Shri Gidwani: May I know whether it is a fact that an enquiry has been instituted by the Anti-Corruption Department and a search was made of a big officer like the Collector of Customs in Bombay, and if so, for what reasons?

Shri A. C. Guha: Enquiry against the Collector of Customs regarding what?

Mr. Speaker: He says the enquiry was started by the Anti-Corruption Department and a search was made.

Shri A. C. Guha: Regarding jewellery?

Shri Gidwani: Or in any other connection.

Mr. Speaker: If the hon. Member has got definite information he will table a question.

Shri Gidwani: I have got definite information and had tabled a question; but that has been converted into an unstarred question.

Shri A. C. Guha: Sir, if you will permit me to intervene, I should like to say that the hon. Member must be referring to some other case. I do not like the House to be left under any misapprehension. There was an enquiry by the Special Police Establishment. It was not connected with jewellery. From the result of the enquiry I think we can say that nothing has been established against that officer.

Shri Gidwani: Sir this was my question: "Is it a fact that an enquiry has been instituted....."

Mr. Speaker: Is he reading his unstarred question?

Shri Gidwani: I am only asking whether any enquiry was held, if so

what was the result of the enquiry and whether the police made searches in his house?

Mr. Speaker: It was in connection with some other matter.

Shri Bhandari: Is it a fact that indiscriminate searches are being made in all parts of the country, particularly at Jaipur and Delhi?

Shri A. C. Guha: I have no information about searches at Jaipur and Delhi. If the hon. Member has got any definite case in view he can report the case to me.

ENGLISH AS MEDIUM OF INSTRUCTION

*716. **Shri A. M. Thomas:** Will the Minister of Education be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Central Government was consulted by the Bombay Government in the matter of banning English as a medium of instruction in the primary and secondary schools in the State; and

(b) if so, what advice was given by them?

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Education (Dr. M. M. Das): (a) No.

(b) Does not arise.

Shri A. M. Thomas: May I enquire whether the change-over adopted by the Bombay Government was brought to the notice of the Central Government, and whether the Centre in the exercise of its overall control, issued any directive in this behalf?

Dr. M. M. Das: There was no occasion for it, because Education is a State subject and the Central Government has no constitutional authority to guide the State Governments in this matter.

Mr. Speaker: I think the matter is under dispute and has gone up to the Supreme Court. It is better not to proceed with this question.

EXCHANGE OF PRISONERS

*717. **Shri K. P. Sinha:** Will the Minister of Defence be pleased to refer to the reply given to starred question No. 266 asked on the 24th November, 1953 and state:

(a) whether it is a fact that some Indian soldiers are still in Pakistan prison; and

(b) the number repatriated so far on both sides?

The Minister of Defence Organisation (Shri Tyagi): (a) and (b). The exchange of prisoners referred to in the reply to Question 266 on 24th November, 1953, has been completed except in the case of those who refused repatriation and were therefore released. 13 were repatriated to India and 11 to Pakistan.

Shri K. P. Sinha: Is it a fact that some prisoners when released refused to go to their land of origin?

Shri Tyagi: No, Sir. They first refused to go to their land of origin. Afterwards they were released. As I have already stated 13 prisoners were received by India and 11 by Pakistan.

REFRACTORY CLAY IN BILASPUR

*718. **Shri Muniswamy:** Will the Minister of Natural Resources and Scientific Research be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that investigations have been made in Bilaspur District in Madhya Pradesh by the Geological Survey of India recently; and

(b) if so, whether large quantities of refractory clay are available in the Korba coal-field area of Bilaspur District?

The Deputy Minister of Natural Resources and Scientific Research (Shri K. D. Malaviya): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The reserves of refractory clay in an area of about 250 square miles around Korba are estimated to be of the order of 3,67,000 tons.

Shri Muniswamy: May I know, Sir, whether any proper assessment of