

STERLING BALANCES

*727. **Shri D. C. Sharma:** Will the Minister of Finance be pleased to state the manner in which the Sterling Balances have been utilised so far during 1954-55?

The Deputy Minister of Finance (Shri M. C. Shah): Sterling balances are utilised for financing the over-all deficit in India's external accounts. The sterling balances have been drawn down to the extent of about Rs. 32 crores between the end of March 1954 and end of November, 1954. Preliminary figures for the quarter ending 30th June, 1954, show a current account deficit in the balance of payments of the order of Rs. 17 crores. Balance of payments figures after 30th June, 1954, have not yet become available.

PENSIONS

*728. **Shri Bahadur Singh:** Will the Minister of Finance be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that considerable delay occurs in deciding the pension payable to retiring Government officials;

(b) the number of cases in the last five years which took over three years for determining the amount of pension payable; and

(c) if the answer to part (a) above be in the affirmative, what steps Government will take in this regard?

The Deputy Minister of Finance (Shri M. C. Shah): (a) and (c). It is not a fact that considerable delay generally occurs in sanctioning pensions to retiring Government servants. There have however been cases in which some delay has occurred due mainly to difficulty in verifying particulars of past service of retiring Government servants. In cases where considerable delay is expected an anticipatory pension is usually sanctioned on a provisional basis to avoid hardship.

To expedite sanctions to pensions, it has been decided that officers may submit their pension applications one year in advance of the date of their retirement so that necessary formalities and verification connected with the disposal of their pension papers may be completed before the due date.

(b) The requisite information will have to be collected from the various pension sanctioning authorities throughout the country. It is considered that the labour and time involved in doing so will be disproportionate to the result achieved.

STAFF COMMITTEES

*730. **Pandit D. N. Tiwary:** Will the Minister of Home Affairs be pleased to state:

(a) whether Staff Committees in various Ministries have been set up; and

(b) if so, what has been the method of selection?

The Deputy Minister of Home Affairs (Shri Datar): (a) Staff Committees have been set up in many of the Ministries. Others have taken up the question and the Committees will be formed soon.

(b) A copy of the instructions issued is placed on the Table of the House. [See Appendix III, annexure No. 68.] Each Staff Committee consists of a Chairman, representatives of Government and of the Staff. Representatives of Government are nominated by the Ministry while representatives of staff are elected by members of each grade of staff.

KALYANWALA COMMITTEE'S RECOMMENDATIONS

*731. **Shri H. N. Mukerjee:** Will the Minister of Defence be pleased to refer to the reply given to starred question No. 233 on the 30th August, 1954 regarding the Kalyanwala Committee's recommendations and place on the Table of the House a statement

showing the number of employees benefited by each of the recommendations and the total expenditure incurred thereon?

The Deputy Minister of Defence (Shri Satish Chandra): The information is not available and its collection would entail labour and time to an extent which would not be commensurate with the utility of the information.

DRAMATIC PERFORMANCES ACT, 1.76

*733. **Dr. Rama Rao:** Will the Minister of Home Affairs be pleased to state:

(a) whether the attention of Government has been drawn to a recent judgment delivered in the Madras High Court that Section 6 of the Dramatic Performances Act of 1876 is not valid; and

(b) whether Government will now amend or repeal this Act?

The Deputy Minister of Home Affairs (Shri Datar): (a) Yes.

(b) No such proposal is under consideration.

INSTRUCTIONS TO GOVERNMENT SERVANTS

*734. **Shri N. S. Jain:** Will the Minister of Home Affairs be pleased to state:

(a) whether any instructions have been issued to the Government servants to abstain from liquor drinks in clubs and parties and to abstain from attending functions or entertainments when such drinks are served; and

(b) if so, whether a copy of such instructions will be laid on the Table of the House?

The Deputy Minister of Home Affairs (Shri Datar): (a) Government of India have issued no such instructions.

(b) Does not arise.

SMUGGLING

*737. **Mulla Abdullahhal:** Will the Minister of Finance be pleased to state:

(a) the number of check-posts existing on the Indo-Pakistan border in

Punjab for preventing the smuggling of goods:

(b) how many cases of smuggling were detected on the Border in 1952-53 and 1953-54;

(c) the total value of the goods seized during these years; and

(d) the commodities which are generally smuggled?

The Deputy Minister of Finance (Shri A. C. Guha): (a) There are 8 Land Customs Stations and 16 land Custom Preventive Check-posts on the Punjab section of the Indo-Pakistan border.

(b) 196 and 192 cases of smuggling were detected during 1952-53 and 1953-54 respectively on this sector of the border.

(c) The total value of the goods seized on this sector of the border during 1952-53 and 1953-54 was Rs. 1,03,675 and Rs. 1,66,270 respectively.

(d) The principal commodities seized while being smuggled through this border were Gold and Silver thread, Art-silk, Muslin cloth, Black pepper, Cardamoms, Cloves, Gold, Silver and Silver-coins.

FREE EDUCATION IN THE PUNJAB

*739. { **Th. Jugal Kishore Sinha:**
Shri Naval Prabhakar:

Will the Minister of Education be pleased to state:

(a) whether any directive for the free education of boys under fourteen years has been given to the Punjab Government; and

(b) whether such instructions have been issued to other States as well?

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Education (Dr. M. M. Das):

(a) and (b). No.

GEOLOGICAL SURVEY OF INDIA

*742. **Sardar Hukam Singh:** Will the Minister of Natural Resources and Scientific Research be pleased to state:

(a) whether any fresh areas were surveyed by the Geological Survey of India during 1954 so far; and