

even some four or five days back, the same question was put.

Shri Velayudhan: May I know, Sir, which are the countries where the students are sent?

Mr. Speaker: Did not the hon. Member hear the reply given earlier?

مولانا آزاد : یورپ کی مختلف

جگہیں ہیں - میں ان سب کے نام
ابھی نہیں بتا سکتا -

[**Maulana Azad:** Different places in Europe, all of which I cannot name just now.]

BALANCE OF PAYMENT

*554. **Dr. Ram Subhag Singh:** Will the Minister of Finance be pleased to state the balance of payment position of the country for the latter half of the year 1951-52 with the sterling and non-sterling areas?

The Minister of Finance (Shri C. D. Deshmukh): According to the latest estimates, India's balance of payments on current account for the second half of 1951 was favourable to the extent of Rs. 36.9 crores with the sterling area and was adverse to the extent of Rs. 79.2 crores with the non-sterling area, after taking credit for the proceeds of International Bank loans and the American wheat loan, utilised during the period. The figures are provisional.

Dr. Ram Subhag Singh: May I know, Sir, what was the surplus of this country during the first half of 1951-52?

Shri C. D. Deshmukh: I am sorry, Sir, I have not got the figures separately for the first half. I have got the figures for the whole of the year and that figure—a deficit of Rs. 30 crores—was given by me in the budget speech.

COMPANY LAW COMMITTEE

*555. **Shri S. N. Das:** Will the Minister of Finance be pleased to refer to the reply to Unstarred Question No. 8 for 13th February, 1952, and state:

(a) whether the Company Law Committee has since submitted its Report; and

(b) if so, what recommendations of the Committee have been accepted by Government?

The Minister of Finance (Shri C. D. Deshmukh): (a) Yes.

(b) The report has been circulated to State Governments, and commercial

bodies for eliciting their views in the first instance and will be considered by Government in the light of their comments.

Shri S. N. Das: May I know, Sir, whether the Report has been signed by all the members or some of the members have not signed it?

Shri C. D. Deshmukh: I would like notice of that question.

Shri S. N. Das: May I know, Sir, whether the report is a unanimous one or there is a Minute of Dissent?

Shri C. D. Deshmukh: I believe there is one Minute of Dissent.

Shri S. N. Das: May I know, Sir, what are the important recommendations which the Committee has made for the consideration of the Government immediately?

Shri C. D. Deshmukh: Sir, there was a Press Information Bureau release on the subject issued on the 9th March 1952 that gave a summary of the recommendations to quite a satisfactory extent. It is impossible to summarise the recommendations of a report of this kind here.

Shri S. N. Das: May I know, Sir, whether copies of this report will be supplied to the Members of Parliament?

Shri C. D. Deshmukh: In due course, Sir, I would like to add that 12 copies of the report were forwarded to the Parliament Secretariat—2 copies for the Library and 10 for supply to hon. Members who might ask for the copies.

Shri A. C. Guha: May I know when the Government will be able to bring forward a Bill on the recommendations of this Committee?

Shri C. D. Deshmukh: It is very difficult to indicate the precise time, Sir. The associations and others who had been consulted had been asked to communicate their comments by the 31st May 1952. A few comments have been received while others like the Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry have asked for an extension of time up to the end of June 1952. After that a few months will be taken to compile and process all the recommendations to arrive at conclusions on which to base legislation.

REVIEW OF TOBACCO RANGES

*556. **Shri S. C. Samanta:** (a) Will the Minister of Finance be pleased to state whether the review of the tobacco ranges in the various Central Excise Collectorates has been completed?

(b) If so, what are the results of the review and what steps have Government already taken or propose to take in the matter?

The Minister of State for Finance (Shri Tyagi): (a) The review of tobacco ranges in all Central Excise Collectorates has not yet been completed. But steps have already been taken in some Collectorates to reduce the staff on a preliminary survey of un-economic ranges. Periodical reviews are conducted with a view to employing only the minimum staff required to the maximum advantage.

(b) The result of the preliminary review already made in respect of some Collectorates is a saving of 5.63 lakhs a year. The review will be continued in respect of other Collectorates with a view to effecting economy to the maximum extent possible.

Shri S. C. Samanta: May I know, Sir, which of the ranges are being reviewed up till now?

Shri Tyagi: Allahabad, Calcutta, Delhi, Shillong, Jamnagar, Madras and Bombay have had the review and the staff had been ordered to be reduced only in Allahabad, Calcutta (including Patna) and Delhi.

Shri S. C. Samanta: The hon. Minister said that the staff was reduced. May I know whether it is on account of uneconomic ranges, and whether they will be abolished or not?

Shri Tyagi: There are tobacco ranges where tobacco cultivation is very sparse and at long distances it is not economical to keep regular staff in that vast area when there is not much of revenue and, therefore, it was decided to take an over-all review of these ranges and after the result of this review had been received, it was decided that those ranges might be struck off the register.

CANTEEN STORES DEPARTMENT

*557. **Shri S. C. Samanta:** Will the Minister of Defence be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the retail sale section of the Canteen Stores Department (India) has been taken over by the Units;

(b) if so, what advantages have been secured by this change-over; and

(c) the value of articles imported for Canteen Stores Department (India) in the years 1950-51 and 1951-52 respectively?

The Minister of Defence (Shri Gopalaswami): (a) The retail sales of canteen stores to military personnel will be gradually taken over from contractors by units and/or the Canteen Stores Department as soon as practicable.

(b) The changeover would result in—

(i) avoiding the middleman's profit and providing canteen goods to troops at cheaper rates;

(ii) ensuring more efficient canteen services; and

(iii) providing additional amenities for troops from the increased profits that would thus accrue.

(c) The value of imported articles from foreign countries was Rs. 51.58 lakhs in 1950-51 out of a total purchase of Rs. 195.15 lakhs and Rs. 96.77 lakhs in 1951-52; out of Rs. 298.93 lakhs.

Shri S. C. Samanta: May I know, Sir, whether the articles used in canteens are being imported by the Ministerial department or the canteen owners are allowed to import them?

Shri Gopalaswami: Sir, I think some facilities are given by the department for making these purchases.

Shri S. C. Samanta: May I know, Sir, what steps have been taken by the Ministry to encourage indigenous articles?

Shri Gopalaswami: The policy of the department is to encourage the larger use of indigenous articles. As a matter of fact, the percentage of commodities imported from foreign countries for all the canteens put together is now 32.4 against 45 in 1949 and 25.9 in 1948. The number of indigenous articles in 1949 was 678 against a total of 1138, giving a percentage of 59.6. In 1950 it was 1614 against a total of 2039, a percentage of 79.2. In 1951 indigenous articles totalled 2006 against a grand total of 2431, giving a percentage of 82.5.

Shri Dhulekar: Has any estimate been made about the additional expenditure which is necessary for catering purposes, when the canteens are taken over by the units?

Shri Gopalaswami: The canteens are run on a profit basis. Annually we realise considerable profits out of the running of these canteens.

Shri Velayudhan: What is the assessed book value of the stores which