

(c) whether any special effort was made during that year to further cultural contacts with neighbouring countries like Pakistan, Ceylon, Burma, the People's Republic of China and the U.S.S.R.?

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Education (Dr. M. M. Das): (a) to (c). A statement is laid on the Table of the House. [See Appendix VIII, annexure No. 2].

IMPORT OF ARMAMENTS

***1550. Shrimati Ila Palchoudhury:** Will the Minister of Defence be pleased to state whether India still imports armaments from foreign countries?

The Deputy Minister of Defence (Shri Satish Chandra): Yes.

Shrimati Ila Palchoudhury: Are all the armaments that we import of the latest type?

Shri Satish Chandra: As far as the Army is concerned, very few items have been imported. Because the hon. Member asked the question whether the imports continue, I had to say 'Yes'. But in fact since 1948 there have hardly been two or three orders for armaments placed abroad.

Shrimati Ila Palchoudhury: What we import, are they from dollar countries or from sterling countries?

Shri Satish Chandra: From both.

Shri K. K. Basu: May I know the names of the countries from which the armaments are imported?

Shri Satish Chandra: Mostly from U.K. and sometimes from U.S.A.

ANDAMAN AND NICOBAR ISLANDS

***1552. Dr. Ram Subhag Singh:** Will the Minister of Natural Resources and Scientific Research be pleased to state:

(a) whether the attention of Government has been drawn to a resolution adopted by the U.N. Regional Cartographic Conference held recently in Mussoorie regarding the desir-

ability of connecting the Andamans and the Nicobar Islands with the Indian mainland; and

(b) if so, whether Government propose to approach the Governments of U.S.A. and Canada for exploring that possibility through electronic devices as suggested in that resolution?

The Deputy Minister of Commerce and Industry (Shri Kanungo): (a) and (b). The resolution will be considered when it is communicated to us.

Dr. Ram Subhag Singh: May I know whether the Netherlands Delegate to that Conference had proposed to the Indian Delegate to have gravity apparatus from that country if the Indian Government agreed to have it, and whether that fact has been communicated to the Government by the Indian Delegate?

Shri Kanungo: No, we have no information on that.

LOSS DUE TO DEVALUATION OF CURRENCY

***1554. Kumari Annie Mascarene:** Will the Minister of Finance be pleased to state the amount of loss incurred by India in her Balance of Trade during 1952, 1953 and 1954 as a result of devaluation of Indian Currency in 1949?

The Minister of Revenue and Defence Expenditure (Shri A. C. Guha): The hon. Member is under a misapprehension. Devaluation has the effect of strengthening the balance of trade by stimulating exports and discouraging imports. Moreover, one cannot relate the balance of trade position in 1952, 1953 and 1954 to a measure adopted in 1949.

Kumari Annie Mascarene: May I know whether the Government is aware that in spite of these attempts, imports are increasing and have not decreased?

Shri A. C. Guha: I can give figures and say that devaluation was only relating to the dollar and some other hard currency. It has no relation with