

"Rama Retold"

S. N. Q. No. 12. Shri M. L. Dwivedi : Will the Minister of Home Affairs be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that an insinuating publication entitled "Rama Retold" by Shri Aubrey Menon has been printed in Great Britain by Messrs. Butler and Tanner Ltd., London and published by chatto and Windus, London and is selling in India;

(b) whether Government have examined it;

(c) whether the contents of book injure the feelings of a large section of the people of this country;

(d) whether any steps have been taken by Government to stop further sale of this book in India or to proscribe this publication; and

(e) whether the attention of the Government of U.S.A. has been drawn towards this publication?

The Deputy Minister of Home Affairs (Shri Datar): (a) to (d). The import into India of this book has been prohibited by a notification of the Finance Ministry dated the 19th July 1955 and its sale and circulation in India has also been prohibited by a notification dated the 27th July 1955 issued by the Delhi State Government.

(e) No.

Shri M. L. Dwivedi: In view of the fact that the contents of the book has been found to be very inciting, and so much so the Government has proscribed it, has the attention of the Government been drawn to the fact that an Indian publication, *Caravan*, in its issue of May 1955, reviewed this book eulogising it? May I know whether any action has been taken against the reviewer and, if not, why not?

Shri Datar: What the hon. Member has stated has come to our notice but it may be difficult to take action against a reviewer while we can take action against the sale of that book.

Shri M. L. Dwivedi: May I know if any correspondence has been entered into with the Government of the country in which it was printed and published and if any attempt has been made so that further sale of this book may be proscribed there also?

Shri Datar: In such cases, it is not the practice to take up this question with the Government of the country where the books are published. It is more than sufficient and effective if action is taken against the import or the publication of this book in India itself.

Shrimati Ammu Swaminathan: Is the Government aware that this particular book has been recognised by the Book Society and can the Government take any action on that?

Shri Datar: Unfortunately it is so. But so far as the Government of India are concerned, how can they take any action against the Book Society of the United States?

Shri Joachim Alva: Is Government aware that Shri Aubrey Menon who has maligned India

Shri Datar: It is not Menon, Sir; it is Menen.

Shri Joachim Alva: I am sorry, this gentleman while in India sported his name as Menon and I have known him at gatherings. Excuse me.

Is the Government aware that Shri Aubrey Menon who has maligned India enjoyed considerable hospitality at the hands of the All India Radio once and do the Home Ministry propose to recommend to the Education Ministry, in order to counteract such propoganda, that they should undertake the publication of great and noble classics like Ramayana and Mahabharata in English as had been done by the former Governor-General, Shri Rajagopalachari?

Shri Datar: I would recommend this very laudable suggestion to my colleague, the hon. Deputy Minister of Education here.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

Hindi

*2265. **Shri D. C. Sharma:** Will the Minister of Education be pleased to state the steps taken so far to introduce Hindi in the Various Branches of his Ministry?

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Education (Dr. M. M. Das): A statement is placed on the Table of the Lok Sabha. [See Appendix XI, annexure No. 45.]

Kolar Gold Mines

*2269. **Shri Keshavalengar:** Will the Minister of Natural Resources and Scientific Research be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Mysore Government have consulted the Government of India with regard to enhancement of rate of royalty in respect of Kolar Gold Mines; and

(b) if so, with what result?