

Braille Press, Dehra Dun

*565. **Shri Sadhan Gupta** : Will the Minister of Education be pleased to state:

(a) the number of publications that the Braille Press, Dehra Dun, has brought out so far; and

(b) the names of the languages in which they have been published?

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Education (Dr. M. M. Das) : (a) 21.

(b) Hindi, English, Telugu Marathi, and Gujrati.

Shri Sadhan Gupta : May I know in the course of what period these 21 publications have been brought out?

Dr. M. M. Das : Up to the middle of last year, publications were carried out only in Hindi. During the last one year, they are publishing in other languages also.

Shri Sadhan Gupta : May I know in what other languages publication is contemplated?

Dr. M. M. Das : That is yet to be decided.

Shri Sadhan Gupta : May I know how these publications are distributed? Are they distributed by sale or is there some other method of distribution?

Dr. M. M. Das : They are on sale. They sell very cheaply. The price has been kept very low—one-third of the cost price.

Estate Duty

*566. **Shri B. S. Murthy** : Will the Minister of Finance be pleased to state :

(a) the amount collected as Estate Duty in Andhra in 1954-55; and

(b) the reason for the late application of the Estate Duty Act in the Andhra State?

The Minister of Revenue and Civil Expenditure (Shri M. C. Shah) : (a) A sum of Rs. 32,996 was collected as Estate Duty in Andhra in 1954-55.

(b) The Estate Duty Act 1953, which came into force with effect from the 15th October, 1953, extended to the whole of India, except the State of Jammu and Kashmir. It has accordingly been in force in the Andhra State from that date, so the question of late application does not arise.

Shri B. S. Murthy : What machinery is employed for collecting this estate duty?

Shri M. C. Shah : The income-tax officers, designated as Assistant Controllers, and so on, do this work.

Shri Nanadas : May I know the number of cases and the highest amount collected?

Shri M. C. Shah : I have not got the highest amount collected. Regarding the amount of cases, during the year 1954-55 till 31st October, 1955, there were 60 cases. Between 1st April, 1955 and 31st October, 1955, two cases have been disposed of; there are still 58 cases to be disposed of.

Shri Jhunjhunwala : Has the Government kept any record of the expenditure for collecting the Estate Duty?

Shri M. C. Shah : There are no separate figures of expenditure; as I said it is collected through the machinery of the income-tax officers, controllers, assistant controllers etc. Wherever there is more work, like Bombay, we have special circles. If the hon. Member wants the figures of expenditure, I require notice.

Shri Bansal : May I know the percentage of collections in Andhra as compared to the total collections in the country as whole?

Shri M. C. Shah : I do not have the percentage with me. The demand in the year 1954-55 was Rs. 1,23,72,458; the collections were Rs. 85,14,416. The collections in Andhra were Rs. 32,996. If the hon. Member divides this figure by the total collections and multiplies by hundred, he will get the percentage.

International Cottage Industries Exhibition

*567. **Sardar Hukam Singh** : Will the Minister of Education be pleased to state whether any decision has been taken by Government to organise an International Cottage Industries Exhibition during the Ninth Session of the UNESCO to be held in India in 1956.

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

The question of organising suitable programmes including exhibitions is under consideration.

Sardar Hukam Singh : Has any progress been made about the proposal or is it still in a melting pot and nothing has been done?

Dr. M. M. Das : It is certainly not in the melting pot. It is the general practice to hold suitable programmes,

educational, cultural etc. in the country while the conference of the UNESCO takes place. We have got 8 other proposals for holding exhibitions during the time the conference takes place in Delhi.

Sardar Hukam Singh : When the UNESCO conference takes place anywhere, is it left to the host country to invite other countries to attend these exhibitions or does UNESCO also take part in selecting countries to attend these exhibitions?

Dr. M. M. Das : So far as the holding of these exhibitions is concerned, the host country has to make arrangements for holding the exhibitions. In addition to that, other countries also, who are members of the UNESCO, can hold exhibitions in the host country if facilities are available and if they want to do it.

Mr. Speaker : The question is, who selects the invitees to these exhibitions?

Dr. M. M. Das : UNESCO has nothing to do with the selection. So far as the host country is concerned, it depends upon the host country; about the other member countries it depends upon them.

Shri Bahadur Singh : May I know whether any site has been chosen to hold this conference?

Dr. M. M. Das : No.

पींड पावना

*५६८. श्री श्रीनारायण दास : क्या वित्त मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि भारत के पींड पावना की वर्तमान स्थिति क्या है ?

वित्त मंत्री (श्री सी० डी० बेशमुख) :
२५ नवम्बर, १९५५ को भारत के पींड पावने की कुल राशि लगभग ७१६.६६ करोड़ रुपये थी ।

Shri T. S. A. Chettiar : Will the Parliamentary Secretary please repeat the figures in English?

Shri B. R. Bhagat : Rs. 716.69 crores.

Shri Shree Narayan Das : May I know the extent to which India was able to utilise the Sterling funds as released according to the agreement between these two countries?

Shri B. R. Bhagat : We have used only £1.5 crores.

Shri Shree Narayan Das : In view of the Sterling requirements for the next Five Year Plan, may I know whether any fresh negotiations are proposed to be held with the British Government about the release of this fund?

Shri B. R. Bhagat : Fresh negotiation is not needed at all, because we have not utilised it to the extent of the release agreed upon. Under the agreement, we could have utilised £3.5 crores, or £35 million, every year for the next six years. But we have only used £15 million. This is because of the improvement in the food situation, industrial development, progress made by the first Five Year Plan, etc. So, there was no need for any release.

सेठ प्रचल सिंह : क्या मंत्री महोदय, बतलाने की कृपा करेंगे कि जो हमारे स्टर्लिंग बैलेंसिस लंदन में रहते हैं, उन पर क्या कोई इंटेस्ट भी मिलता है, यदि मिलता है तो किस हिसाब से ?

श्री डी० प्रार० भगत : इंटेस्ट* तो नहीं मिलता है ।

Shri C. D. Pande : May I know if the cost of the steel plant to be established at Durgapur by the British will be met out of this fund?

Shri B. R. Bhagat : It is a separate question.

Shri A. M. Thomas : In view of the contemplated deficit financing, has any fresh negotiation been made for the release of this fund?

Shri B. R. Bhagat : There is no need for fresh negotiation, because we are not utilising the fund to the extent already agreed upon.

Shri M. S. Gurupadaswamy : Since the Government is not able to utilise fully the funds that are released from the sterling balances, may I know whether it would consider taking steps to invest these sterling balances in foreign countries in any industry?

Shri B. R. Bhagat : During the second Five Year Plan, we can always utilise our foreign exchange resources; although we have a comfortable sterling balance, it is expected that in the second Five Year Plan, we are likely to utilise almost the whole of it.

* The answer was later corrected by Shri B. R. Bhagat as follows :

"Sterling securities at present carry interest at rates ranging between two percent and four percent. What the average rate on sterling balances works out to it is difficult to say as rates for short term money, in which form a part of our sterling balances are kept, vary from time to time." (vide Part II Debates, dated 23-12-55).