

COMMONWEALTH TRUST LTD.

983. **Shri H. N. Mukerjee:** Will the Minister of Education be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Commonwealth Trust Limited of Calicut are the trustees of certain German industrial and commercial establishments on the Malabar Coast;

(b) whether the Government of India as the legal custodians of all enemy property in the country has any interest or voice in the management and running of the Commonwealth Trust Limited;

(c) who are the present Directors of the firm;

(d) what are the conditions under which the former German interests were handed over to the Trust by the Government of India;

(e) whether the Government of India have any control on the allocation of incomes of the Trust and remittance of profits abroad and if so, the nature of the control;

(f) the total amount of profits etc. remitted abroad in the pre-15th August, 1947 period and the amount remitted since the 15th August, 1947 to date annually; and

(g) whether it has come to the notice of the Government of India that the Commonwealth Trust Limited have established a big business on the British Gold Coast with the profits earned from their trust properties in India during the last thirty and odd years.

The Minister of Revenue and Civil Expenditure (Shri M. C. Shah): (a) to (g). Information is being collected. A statement will be laid on the Table in due course.

ARMY EXERCISES

984. **Sardar Hukam Singh:** Will the Minister of Defence be pleased to state.

(a) whether the Western Command, Delhi Area carried out exercises without troops during 1953 or 1954 and gave it the name of "Sikh Maro"; and
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(b) what was the particular significance for selecting this title for these exercises?

The Minister of Defence Organisation (Shri Tyagi): (a) and (b). An exercise was held by a Signal Regiment in Western Command in February, 1953, to which the name of "Sikhmaro" (to be pronounced सीखमरो) was given. It is customary to give a short code name to each exercise held by the Services. The significance of this name was that those participating in the exercise should, if they have to die, die only after learning.

CUSTOMS DUTY ON PEARLS

985. **Sardar Hukam Singh:** Will the Minister of Finance be pleased to lay a statement on the Table of the House showing:

(a) the number of parcels of real pearls detained by the customs authorities of Bombay during the years 1951, 1952, 1953 and 1954;

(b) the number of persons fined on this account and the total amount of fine imposed; and

(c) the number of cases in which the orders of imposition of fine were revised and the fines reduced?

The Minister of Revenue and Defence Expenditure (Shri A. C. Guha): (a) The number of parcels of real pearls detained during the years 1951, 1952, 1953 and 1954 (upto 31st October) was 4, 18, 6 and 5, respectively.

(b) The total number of defaulters fined during this period was six and the total amount of fine and penalty imposed was Rs. 4,431 only.

(c) Nil.

NON-COMBATANT ENROLLED PERSONNEL

986. **Sardar Hukam Singh:** Will the Minister of Defence be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that non-combatant enrolled personnel are paid the same initial pay on which they were recruited, without annual increments or chance of promotion to any higher grade; and