

Timber for Railway Coaches

724. { Shri T. B. Vittal Rao :
Shri Gidwani :
Shri Gadilingama Gowd. :

Will the Minister of Home Affairs be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have received complaints regarding alleged supply and acceptance of low quality timber for coach manufacturing in the railways; and

(b) if so, the action taken by Government ?

The Minister in the Ministry of Home Affairs (Shri Datar) : (a) Yes.

(b) Investigation by the Special Police Establishment is now in progress. It will be against the public interest to disclose any details at this stage.

Decimal Coinage

725. Shri Krishnacharya Joshi : Will the Minister of Finance be pleased to state the steps Government have taken to produce adequate stocks of new types of small coins under the decimal coinage system ?

The Minister of Finance and Iron and Steel (Shri T. T. Krishnamachari) : The three mints of the Government of India have been put on work at their full capacity on a 54 hour week. The combined output of the Mints is approximately 80 million pieces of coins a month.

It is not possible at this stage to estimate what the possible demand from the public may be for such coins and whether the quantities made available will be adequate to meet all the demands but in any case no inconvenience to the public is likely to arise in view of the fact that the existing coins will continue to be legal tender, along with the new decimal coins, for a period of at least three years from 1st April, 1957.

Defence Services Delegation to China

726. { Shri Krishnacharya Joshi :
Shri Bibhuti Mishra :

Will the Minister of Defence be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Indian Defence Services Delegation headed by Lt. General J. N. Chaudhury visited China in October, 1956; and

(b) if so, object of the visit ?

The Deputy Minister of Defence (Sarder Majithia) : (a) Yes.

(b) It was a goodwill visit undertaken at the invitation of the Chinese Government.

New Gold Mine in Mysore

727. Shri Jhulan Sinha : Will the Minister of Natural Resources and Scientific Research be pleased to state whether it is a fact that another Gold Mine has been found to exist in Mysore near the Kolar Gold Fields ?

The Deputy Minister of Education (Dr. K. L. Shrimall) : No, Sir.

Basic Education Assessment Committee

728. { Shri D. C. Sharma :
Shri Bibhuti Mishra :

Will the Minister of Education be pleased to state the recommendations of the Basic Education Assessment Committee which have been implemented so far ?

The Deputy Minister of Education (Dr. M. M. Das) : A statement is laid on the Table of the House. [See Appendix III, annexure No. 139]

Indo-Pakistan Financial Issues

729. { Shri D. C. Sharma :
Shri Krishnacharya Joshi :
Shri Ramachandra Reddi :
Shri Amar Singh Damar :

Will the Minister of Finance be pleased to refer to the reply given to Unstarred Question No. 392, on the 3rd August, 1956, and state :

(a) whether any date has since been fixed for the meeting of the Finance Ministers of India and Pakistan to resolve the outstanding financial issues between India and Pakistan ; and

(b) if so, what is that date ?

The Minister of Finance and Iron and Steel (Shri T. T. Krishnamachari) : (a) No.

(b) Does not arise.

All-India Council For Secondary Education

730. Shri D. C. Sharma : Will the Minister of Education be pleased to refer to replies given to Starred Question No. 689 on the 9th December, 1955 and Unstarred Question No. 2096 on the 16th