

currency and thus save our foreign exchange?

Mr. Speaker: That is a suggestion for action.

Shri Sadhan Gupta: As we understand from Press reports Egypt is insisting on payment in dollars in respect of Suez Canal tolls, has any understanding been reached with Egypt that in the case of our country the payment will be made either in rupee or in any other soft currency?

Shri Jawaharlal Nehru: I have just said, Sir, that I am not acquainted as to how this matter has been paid or whether any special understanding has been reached. No question has arisen. We have been carrying on in the old way. But, as, perhaps the House knows, we have given certain credits in rupees to the Egyptian Government our dealings are by and large in rupees. About this particular matter I do not know.

Government of India Press in Kerala

+
*11. { **Shri A. M. Thomas:**
Shri K. K. Warrior:

Will the Minister of Works, Housing and Supply be pleased to state:

(a) whether the work in connection with the starting of the Government of India Press in Kerala has commenced;

(b) when it is expected to be completed; and

(c) what the employment potential of the Press is?

The Minister of Works, Housing and Supply (Shri K. C. Reddy): (a) No Sir; steps have however, been taken to acquire the land.

(b) By the end of the Second Five Year Plan.

(c) As at present conceived, about 400 persons are expected to be employed in the Press when it gets into production.

Shri A. M. Thomas: The original idea was to locate one press, of a particular size, in the South. May I enquire whether the decision has been subsequently revised and there has been a proposal to locate two presses in the South and if so, of what size?

Shri K. C. Reddy: My information is that it was decided to start two presses in the South, one at Coimbatore and the other in Kerala. I do not know to what the hon. Member referred to.

Shri A. M. Thomas: The two presses referred were meant by me. Will they be started simultaneously or will they be started one after the other?

Shri K. C. Reddy: The intention is to start them simultaneously. One press is meant for printing forms and the other press is for printing books.

Shri Punnoose: May I know what will be the estimated amount for the press that is going to be started in Kerala?

Shri K. C. Reddy: The press to be started in Kerala is for printing forms and the estimate for the construction of the press would be about Rs. 45 lakhs for the buildings and about Rs. 26 lakhs for equipment.

Shrimati Parvathi Krishnan: May I know what would be the estimate for the press to be started in Coimbatore?

Shri K. C. Reddy: I have no information at present with me about that.

Seizure of Passport by Pakistan

*13. **Pandit D. N. Tiwary:** Will the Prime Minister be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Pakistan Government has seized all the passports within the ten mile border belt between Tripura and East-Pakistan;

(b) if so, whether Government are aware of the hardships of the people of that belt and the losses occurring due to this arbitrary action of the Pakistan Government;