

news appearing in the Blitz dated the 31st May, 1958, at page five, under the caption "DIPLOMATIC COVER FOR GOLD SMUGGLERS";

(b) if so, whether Government have examined the full news item;

(c) whether it is a fact that an Indian diplomat in one of our missions in West Asia is under a cloud following the seizure of a huge quantity of contraband gold in India from a foreign national; and

(d) if so, the steps taken to check such alleged activities of Indian Missions abroad?

The Prime Minister and Minister of External Affairs (Shri Jawaharlal Nehru): (a) and (b). Yes.

(c) No.

(d) Does not arise. Investigations made in the matter do not reveal any trace of complicity on the part of any Indian Diplomatic Officer or any other Indian member of the staff of our Missions in West Asia, in smuggling of gold into India.

Coconut Oil and Copra

49. Shri Kunhan: Will the Minister of Commerce and Industry be pleased to state:

(a) what is the estimated value of licences likely to be issued for the import of copra and coconut oil during the current year; and

(b) what will be the effect of liberal import of coconut oil and copra on the prices of indigenous produce?

The Minister of Commerce and Industry (Shri Lal Bahadur Shastri): (a) The estimated value of licences likely to be issued for the import of copra and coconut oil during the April-September, 1958 period is likely to be in the neighbourhood of Rs. 4½ crores.

(b) Liberal imports may help to depress the prices but it is not

possible to allow more foreign exchange under the present circumstances.

State Labour Ministers' Conference

50. { **Shri Balmiki:**
Shri Ram Krishan:
Shri Vajpayee:
Shri U. L. Patil:
Shri N. E. Munisamy:
Shri Bibhuti Mishra:
Sardar Iqbal Singh:
Shri Sanganna:

Will the Minister of Labour and Employment be pleased to state:

(a) the important subjects discussed and the decisions taken at the fifteenth session of the Labour Ministers' Conference held in May, 1958; and

(b) the steps taken to implement the decisions?

The Deputy Minister of Labour (Shri Abid Ali): (a) and (b). A statement indicating the important subjects discussed and the conclusions reached is laid on the Table of the Lok Sabha. [See Appendix I, annexure No. 32.] The conclusions are under examination and necessary follow-up action has been initiated wherever necessary.

Committees under Planning Commission

51. Shri Balmiki: Will the Minister of Planning be pleased to state:

(a) the number of non-official members appointed in different committees under the Planning Commission between 1953-54 to 1957-58;

(b) the amount drawn by them in the form of allowances, salary, etc.; and

(c) the basis on which they were selected?

The Deputy Minister of Planning (Shri S. N. Mishra): (a) to (c). A statement is laid on the Table of the Lok Sabha. [See Appendix I, annexure No. 33.]