

prepare the questions in advance. The questions must be short, only on a single point and ought not to be argumentative.

Shri N. R. Munisamy: While examining the foreign exchange component, would the hon. Minister kindly tell us whether all the Ministries have been consulted or whether any Ministry has been exempted, for example, the Defence Ministry; and, if so, what is the reason?

Shri L. N. Mishra: No Ministry has been exempted; all the Ministries have been consulted.

Shri N. R. Munisamy: May I enquire whether as a result of the rephrasing of this programme any Ministry has suffered most and which Ministry has benefited by accidental inclusion of some item?

Shri S. N. Mishra: In regard to the previous question, I would like to submit that 11 Ministries have been consulted and the Ministry of Defence and the Ministry of Community Development and the like have not been consulted for reasons which are well-known to hon. Members.

Sardar Iqbal Singh: May I know whether the Planning Commission has suggested rationing of foreign exchange in view of the scarcity of foreign exchange?

Mr. Speaker: What is the rationale?

Shri S. N. Mishra: The rationale in examining foreign exchange components.....

Shri Achar: What is the total amount as a result of consultation with the Ministries?

Shri L. N. Mishra: It is not customary to give publicity to this kind of information because all these figures are subject to variation and it is not possible for me to give them, in any definite form.

Shri Gajendra Prasad Sinha: May I know whether there has been any drastic cut in the demand for foreign exchange of the various Ministries?

Shri L. N. Mishra: There has been some adjustment; but, I cannot say that there has been any drastic cut.

Shri N. R. Munisamy: May I know whether the conclusions have been forwarded to the Finance Minister—because he was abroad—for his consultation with the Chief Ministers of the various States with regard to the rephrasing of the present programme?

Shri S. N. Mishra: The Finance Ministry is always in the picture while we are discussing these things. So, the question of sending reports to the Finance Ministry does not arise so much.

Disarmament between India and Pakistan

+

*254. { **Shri Rameshwar Tantia:**
Shri Harish Chandra Mathur:

Will the Prime Minister be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Pakistan Foreign Minister, in a letter to an American newspaper, has suggested disarmament between India and Pakistan; and

(b) if so, whether any such proposal was made to India by Pakistan?

The Deputy Minister of External Affairs (Shrimati Lakshmi Menon):

(a) Government have seen the letter from the Pakistan Foreign Minister published in the New York Times of 29th September, 1957 in which he posed a question about disarmament between India and Pakistan.

(b) No, Sir.

Shri Rameshwar Tantia: May I know how this proposal is different from the offer of 'No War Declaration' by the Prime Minister of Pakistan?

The Prime Minister and Minister of External Affairs (Shri Jawaharlal Nehru): There is no proposal on the part of Pakistan. What happened, I believe, was that Shri C. R. wrote a

letter to the *New York Times* and the *Pakistan High Commissioner* wrote a reply to that letter in the *New York Times*. I think it was the *Pakistan Foreign Minister*. In the course of the reply he vaguely said, 'Well, why should not India and Pakistan disarm?' and further added that Pakistan has, of course, a heavy responsibility because it has to look after various frontiers in the North-West etc. We have received no proposal to consider. Obviously, a proposal to disarm is something different from a 'No War' proposal.

Shri Harish Chandra Mathur: As they do not know what value to attach to such Pakistani propaganda stunts and in view of their evil effects in the foreign press, may I know if the Government of India has taken or proposes to take any action to dispel any misunderstanding because no disarmament can be considered in view of its adherence to SEATO and other military pacts?

Shri Jawaharlal Nehru: These are things done from day to day. There is no such importance attached to a letter in the *New York Times* which has suddenly galvanised the Government of India into doing something particular. It is a vague statement made by the Foreign Minister. Generally I recognise what the hon. Member says. The Government of India or the External Affairs Ministry should be wide awake and should take steps to enlighten people so that they may not be misled by such statement.

Shri Joachim Alva: Is it not true that since the time of the visit of Liaqat Ali Khan to India, the Government of India has made repeated offers to enter into a No-war declaration with Pakistan and Pakistan has not seriously considered it?

Shri Jawaharlal Nehru: The hon. Member is completely right as he sometimes is.

Shri Hem Barua: It is not only a question of a letter appearing in the *New York Times*. In view of the systematic and slanderous propaganda

made against this country with a view to dub India as a country with belligerent aims, what steps have been taken so far to counteract this propaganda by Pakistan?

Shri Jawaharlal Nehru: I do not know what the hon. Member means by specific steps. We have answered such questions repeatedly and I need hardly enumerate. There are many steps which the hon. Member should know. The normal steps are taken: publicity pamphlets, newspapers. May be, they are not quite adequate. We will try to improve them.

Bonus of Industrial Labourers

*256. **Shri Sanganna:** Will the Minister of Labour and Employment be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have been studying the scheme of crediting bonus of industrial labourers to their Provident Fund Account or placing under the National Savings Scheme;

(b) if so, whether the scheme has been finalised; and

(c) the saving to the National Exchequer under the scheme during the Second Five Year Plan period?

The Deputy Minister of Labour (Shri Abid Ali): (a) Yes.

(b) At the meeting of the Standing Labour Committee held in October 1957 a decision was taken to the effect that in the case of workers drawing more than Rs. 75 per month and who receive annual bonus exceeding Rs. 75 or one month's wages whichever is higher, half of the amount in excess thereof should be credited to their provident fund account.

(c) Does not arise.

Shri Sanganna: May I know the industries brought under this scheme?

Shri Abid Ali: This applies to everyone who comes under this category.

Shri Tangamani: May I know whether the State Governments have accepted the recommendations of the Labour Advisory Committee—namely, payment of half the bonus, if the amount exceeds Rs. 75? May I also