

(b) Police authorities have carried out raids on the premises of parties alleged to be conducting option trading and have in all arrested 40 persons. These cases are under investigation. An Enforcement Directorate is being set up in the Forward Markets Commission, which will be specially responsible for looking into cases of illegal trading.

De jure Transfer of Pondicherry

*27. { Shri Ram Krishan Gupta:
Shri Hem Barua:

Will the Prime Minister be pleased to state:

(a) whether any reply to our communications so far regarding the *de jure* transfer of Pondicherry has been received from France by now; and

(b) if so, the nature of it, and if not, whether Government propose to take any positive steps towards achieving the *de jure* transfer of Pondicherry?

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

(a) and (b). The Government of India has received information that the French Government proposes to introduce the Ratification Bill in the French National Assembly in December this year.

Trade Delegation from Afghanistan

*28. { Shri Hem Raj:
Shri Bibhuti Mishra:
Shri P. C. Borooah:
Shri Ajit Singh Sarhadi:
Shri Agadi:
Shri M. Rampure:
Shri Sugandhi:

Will the Minister of Commerce and Industry be pleased to state:

(a) whether a trade delegation from Afghanistan recently visited India;

(b) if so, whether any trade agreement has been signed and what are its main terms; and

(c) whether a copy of it will be laid on the Table?

The Minister of Commerce (Shri Kanungo): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Letters were exchanged embodying the agreed trade arrangements which provide *inter alia* for:

(i) promotion of trade between the two countries on a balanced basis;

(ii) according of facilities for import and export of specified goods; and

(iii) payments for imports and exports through a special procedure which avoids settlement in free foreign exchange.

The arrangements will remain in force for a period of one year from 1st October, 1961.

(c) Copies of the Letters have been placed in the Parliament Library.

Export of Ferro-manganese

*29. Shri Bibhuti Mishra: Will the Minister of Commerce and Industry be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have examined or propose to examine the question of giving concession in the freight on ferro-manganese meant for export similar to the reduction in freight on manganese ore because of the lower world price of this commodity; and

(b) if so, to what extent the concession can be given?

The Minister of Commerce (Shri Kanungo): (a) and (b). The matter is receiving attention.

Exhibition Grounds on Mathura Road, New Delhi

*30. Shri Muhammed Elias: Will the Minister of Works, Housing and Supply be pleased to state:

(a) the terms and conditions on which Exhibition grounds on Mathura