

Shri N. B. Chowdhury : May I know whether specific provisions in respect of the Second Five-Year Plan about this matter will be postponed till the report of the official language Commission is received or will Government go ahead with their departmental plan?

Dr. M. M. Das : If the tentative proposals of the Education Ministry are accepted by the Planning Commission, to the extent they are accepted we will go ahead.

Mr. Speaker : Without waiting for the report of the Hindi Commission?

Dr. M. M. Das : Yes, Sir. These schemes are for propagation and development of Hindi and we will continue to do our best.

Minesweepers

*1137. **Shri Raghunath Singh** Will the Minister of Defence be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that two minesweepers have been recently purchased for the Indian Navy; and
(b) if so, their price?

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

(b) At a cost of Rs. 47 lakhs approximately per ship.

श्री रघुनाथ सिंह : हमने इनको कहाँ से लिया है ?

सरदार मजीठिया : यूनाइटेड किंगडम से ।

Shri Joachim Alva : In buying minesweepers for our Navy, is it the policy of the Government that we buy them from the United Kingdom only because we have the services of a British Admiral or do we go to any other country for the best material?

Sardar Majithia : There is no question of our decision being influenced by any particular person being at the head of any of our Armed Forces. We try to get the best possible vessel available at a price which we think is competitive.

Shri U. C. Patnaik : May I know if we call for global tenders or ask for reports from our embassies in different countries?

Sardar Majithia : That question hardly arises because we know the various ships which can be made available to us and therefore the question of tenders does not come in. We have to do it by private negotiations.

Shri U. C. Patnaik : The second part of my question is unanswered—namely whether we call for any reports from our embassies abroad?

Sardar Majithia : As I said we already know in India, in the Ministry of Defence all the vessels that can possibly be made available and therefore a report is hardly necessary.

Sardar Iqbal Singh : May I know whether these minesweepers are new or old—secondhand?

Shri Syamnandan Sahaya : Very old, indeed.

Sardar Majithia** They are not very old; they are certainly not new but they will be thoroughly re-conditioned and equipped to conform to the modern standards.

मध्य भारत में बरामगाह

*११३८. **श्री भमरसिंह डामर** : क्या रक्षा मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) मध्य भारत राज्य में, भूतपूर्व फौजी विभाग, मध्य भारत के कितने और कितने लम्बे चौड़े ब्लाक्स हैं जिनका उपयोग लोग अपने निजी कार्यों के लिये कर रहे हैं; और

(ख) इस विषय में सरकार क्या यत्न ही करने का विचार रखती है ?

रक्षा उपमंत्री (सरदार मजीठिया) : (क) कोई नहीं ।

(ख) यह प्रश्न नहीं उठता ।

Smuggled Watches

*1139. **Sardar Iqbal Singh** : Will the Minister of Finance be pleased to state:

(a) the number of smuggled watches which were seized by Government during the period from the 1st October 1954 to the 30th June, 1955;

(b) the names of countries from which they were smuggled;

(c) whether it is a fact that smuggling from Pakistan is on the increase and

(d) if so, the reasons therefor and the steps taken by Government to prevent the same?

**The answer was later corrected by Sardar Majithia (Vide Part 11 Debates dated 2-12-55 as follows— "They are brand new").