

**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").

**The Minister of Revenue and Defence Expenditure (Shri A. C. Guha)** (a) The number of watches seized during the period from 1st October, 1954 to 30th June, 1955 was 7,670.

(b) These watches were imported from almost all parts of the world, particularly from Singapore and Hongkong, the Portuguese and the then former French Possessions in India, the Persian Gulf area, the U.K. and the Straits Settlements.

(c) The indications are that smuggling of watches from Pakistan is on the decline.

(d) This does not arise.

**Sardar Iqbal Singh** : May I know whether the Government is aware of the fact that many passengers who go by the air services or by sea carry old watches or go without watches but while they are returning they carry new watches and whether it is lawful or smuggling?

**Shri A. C. Guha** : Anyone coming after some foreign tour to India is entitled to have a certain amount of personal baggage and within that quantity or amount he can bring one or two watches or things like that.

**Shri Syamnandan Sahaya** : May I know what happened to these 7000 watches which were seized?

**Shri A. C. Guha** : I have not got the complete break-up here but most of them were confiscated.

**Shri Syamnandan Sahaya** : And, then?

**Shri A. C. Guha** : In certain cases we released them on the payment of some fine mostly more than or equal to the price of the watches.

**Shri A. M. Thomas** : May I enquire whether the number just now disclosed by the hon. Minister represents only the number of watches seized in the act of smuggling or also the watches taken custody of from shops and other places?

**Shri A. C. Guha** : This number represents the watches seized in the act of smuggling at land customs area, airport and sea-port.

#### Procurement Staff

\*1141. **Shri Biren Dutt** : Will the Minister of Home Affairs be pleased to state:

(a) whether the retrenched staff of the Procurement Department of the Government of Tripura has been absorbed;

(b) how many of them still remain unabsorbed; and

(c) what are the difficulties in the way of absorbing them?

**The Deputy Minister of Home Affairs (Shri Datar)** (a) One third has already been absorbed.

(b) 140.

(c)(i) Absence of requisite qualification for available vacancies in certain cases;

(ii) Unsatisfactory past service;

(iii) Absence of a requisite physical standard for absorption in Police service; and

(iv) Absence of adequate alternate vacancies.

**Shri Biren Dutt** : May I know whether 314 posts requiring the same qualifications as these retrenched persons possess have been filled up in various departments?

**Shri Datar** : I ask for notice to give this information.

**Shri Biren Dutt** : Will the hon. Minister consider the question of giving any interim relief to those who are qualified to be absorbed but are not yet absorbed?

**Shri Datar** : The Government are trying their best to absorb as many qualified people as possible.

**Mr. Speaker** : Shri Raghbir Sahai.

**Shri Lakshmayya** : Question No. 1144. Sir, I have been authorised to put this question.

**Mr. Speaker** : That is all right. If he has been authorised he knows the practice that such questions are taken up only at the end when the whole question list is over and there is time left.

#### Scheduled Tribes

\*1145. **Shri Deogam** : Will the Minister of Home Affairs be pleased to state :

(a) the amount spent during 1954-55 on the execution of development schemes in Binar for the welfare of Scheduled Tribes out of the Central Grant-in-aid sanctioned for the purpose;

(b) whether any portion of the amount lapsed; and

(c) if so, the reasons therefor?

**The Deputy Minister of Home Affairs (Shri Datar)** (a) to (c). The information is being collected and will be placed on the Table of the House in due course.