

Mr. Speaker: The hon. Minister is not aware of it perhaps.

Shri K. C. Reddy: This is the first time I hear of it.

Shri Bansal: The hon. Minister stated that some drills have been purchased from the USSR. May I know the basis of price fixation? Was it negotiated price or tender price?

Shri K. C. Reddy: Negotiated price.

Shri Bhagwat Jha Azad: May I know whether the Government of India is making further contracts for some more purchases and, if so, are the prices cheaper compared to those of other countries?

Shri K. C. Reddy: We have assured ourselves that we are getting the necessary drills from the USSR at the most economic prices.

Shri Kasliwal: May I know whether after we have received equipment from the USSR, we will have other kinds of equipment from other countries also?

Shri K. C. Reddy: The question of equipment has not at all arisen. What we have secured is only a few drills. We will have to consider at a later stage the equipment for the coal mining industry proper. Our intention now is to go in for global tenders and to contact all the countries and to get the necessary things within the quickest possible time and at the cheapest possible prices.

Shri S. C. Samanta: How many coal washeries will be available from USSR by this negotiation?

Shri K. C. Reddy: The question of coal washeries is a separate matter altogether. We have not negotiated with the USSR for coal washeries.

INDIAN FOREIGN SERVICE, CADRE (B)

*830. **Shri Krishnacharya Joshi:** Will the Prime Minister be pleased to state :

(a) whether the formation of the Indian Foreign Service (B) Cadre has been completed;

(b) if so, when the new Service will come into existence; and

(c) what will be the strength of the new Cadre?

The Deputy Minister of External Affairs (Shri Anil K. Chanda): (a) to (c). It has been decided to fix April 1, 1956 as the date of initial constitution of the Indian Foreign Service Branch (B). The final cadre strength of the service and other details will shortly be finalised and published and will also be laid on the Table of House.

Shri Krishnacharya Joshi: May I know whether recruitment for the I.F.S.(B) will be made through the UPSC?

Shri Anil K. Chanda: The Commission will be consulted.

Shri Krishnacharya Joshi: May I know what is the total strength of the Indian Foreign Service at present?

Shri Anil K. Chanda: Speaking from memory, in the I.F.S.(A), we have about 170 and in the I.F.S.(B), I think, we will take about 1500 people.

Shri P. L. Kureel: May I know whether it is a fact that some of these officers will be recruited from the existing I.P.S. Officers?

Shri Anil K. Chanda: Now, in I.F.S.(B), it is all secretariat staff, ministerial staff, those who are actually working at the moment with us.

Shrimati Kamalendu Mati Shah: What will be the qualifications?

Shri Anil K. Chanda: Initially, it will be constituted out of the people who are actually serving with us now.

Shri Velayudhan: May I know whether the reservation for the Scheduled Castes in this particular cadre is being considered or will be considered?

Shri Anil K. Chanda: It is like all other Government Ministries and will be governed by the same rules.