

(c) whether any compensation was paid to the family of the late Dr. Haralu; and

(d) if so, the amount thereof?

**The Deputy Minister of Defence (Sardar Majithla):** (a) Three.

(b) Five years' rigorous imprisonment and dismissal from service in each case.

(c) and (d). No claim for compensation has been received.

#### English in Universities

**103. Shri D. C. Sharma:** Will the Minister of Education and Scientific Research be pleased to refer to the reply given to Starred Question No. 1422 on the 20th December, 1956 and state:

(a) whether the Committee appointed to recommend ways and means of securing an adequate proficiency in English at the University stage has since submitted its report; and

(b) if so, the nature of the report?

**The Deputy Minister of Education and Scientific Research (Dr. M. M. Das):** (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

#### Foreign Exchange

**104. Shri D. C. Sharma:** Will the Minister of Finance be pleased to state:

(a) the position of the foreign exchange reserves as on the 1st of May, 1957; and

(b) how it compares with the position on the 1st of May, 1956?

**The Minister of Finance (Shri T. T. Krishnamachari):** (a) At the beginning of April, 1957, the last month for which figures are available, India's net foreign exchange reserves stood at Rs. 533.27 crores. However, at the beginning of May, 1957, sterling balances, which constitute the major portion of these reserves, amounted to Rs 496.42 crores, inclusive of a drawal

of Rs. 60.7 crores from the International Monetary Fund during February—March '57.

(b) At the beginning of May, 1956, the net foreign exchange reserves were Rs. 751.36 crores, the sterling balances amounting to Rs. 721.50 crores.

#### Improvement of Air Force

**105. Shri D. C. Sharma:** Will the Minister of Defence be pleased to state the steps that have been taken to improve the Air Force during 1957 so far?

**The Deputy Minister of Defence (Sardar Majithla):** It is not in public interest to give the information asked for on the floor of the Lok Sabha.

#### Welfare at Scheduled Castes

**106. Shri D. C. Sharma:** Will the Minister of Home Affairs be pleased to state:

(a) whether any allotment of money or a portion thereof which was meant for Scheduled Castes Welfare works in Punjab lapsed during 1955-56 and 1956-57; and

(b) if so, the reasons thereof?

**The Deputy Minister of Home Affairs (Shrimati Alva):** (a) A sum of Rs. 10,452/- out of the allotment made for welfare of Scheduled Castes in Punjab lapsed during 1953-56. As regards 1956-57, the State Government have not yet intimated the amount, if any, that might have lapsed.

(b) No specific reason can be assigned for a small lapse during 1955-56. The question for 1956-57 does not arise yet.

#### National Theatre

**107. Shri D. C. Sharma:** Will the Minister of Education and Scientific Research be pleased to state the present position in regard to the building of a National Theatre in New Delhi?

The Minister of State in the Ministry of Education and Scientific Research (Dr. K. L. Shrimall): A Special Architect has been appointed who is preparing the design of the National Theatre.

**Report of the Public Service (Qualifications and Recruitment) Committee**

108. { Shri D. C. Sharma:  
Shri Jhulan Sinha:

Will the Minister of Home Affairs be pleased to refer to the reply given to Starred Question No. 591 on the 29th November, 1956 and state:

(a) whether the Report of the Public Service (Qualifications and Recruitment) Committee and comments from all the State Governments thereon have been considered by Government; and

(b) if so, whether any decision has been taken thereon?

The Minister of State in the Ministry of Home Affairs (Shri Datar): (a) and (b). The comments from the States of Bombay, Bihar, Jammu and Kashmir have not yet been received. Meanwhile, the recommendations of the Committee are under examination in the light of comments received so far and it is hoped that a decision will be taken shortly.

**Central Model School for the Blind**

109. Shri D. C. Sharma: Will the Minister of Education and Scientific Research be pleased to state:

(a) whether the proposal for a Central Model School for the Blind has been finalised;

(b) if so, the amount of expenditure to be incurred on the construction of the building; and

(c) the recurring annual expenditure on its staff?

The Deputy Minister of Education and Scientific Research (Dr. M. M. Das): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c). Do not arise.

**Comptroller and Auditor General**

110. Shri D. C. Sharma: Will the Minister of Finance be pleased to refer to the reply given to Starred Question No. 621 on the 29th November, 1950 and state:

(a) the progress made so far in the matter of regulating the duties and powers of the Comptroller and Auditor General under Article 149 of the Constitution; and

(b) the time likely to be taken in bringing forward the Bill in this connection?

The Minister of Finance (Shri T. T. Krishnamachari): (a) and (b). The matter is still under consideration in consultation with the Comptroller and Auditor General and it is not possible to indicate when legislation will be undertaken. Meanwhile, the position continues to be regulated, under Article 149 of the Constitution, by the Provisions of the Government of India (Audit and Accounts) Order, 1936, as adapted by the India (Provisional Constitution) Order, 1947.

**Talks by Air Force Officers in Schools**

111. Shri D. C. Sharma: Will the Minister of Defence be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Air Headquarters will arrange talks by Air Force Officers in schools;

(b) if so, whether the country has been divided into zones for the purpose;

(c) if so, the names and jurisdictions of zones; and

(d) whether the Universities or Schools in the zones have been contacted individually?

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

(b) Yes.

(c) A statement is laid on the Table of Lok Sabha. [See Appendix II, annexure No. 10].

(d) Yes. Air Force Recruiting Officers contact personally the schools/colleges/university authorities within their jurisdiction.