

out a coupon system by which all the universities will get directly import licences without having the formality of going through the established importers. But there is a very wide reading public which wants regularly journals and magazines on economic and cultural affairs and various types of fictions about which there have been several examinations in the Ministry concerned. And it is true, as the hon. Member indirectly suggests, that certain types of undesirable books also come into the country but we are a bit helpless in this matter.

SHRI ARJUN ARORA : May I know if the Minister is aware of the fact that due to activities of the established importers and their so-called right to import whatever trash they like, the situation in the market today is that really serious books are not imported and are not available but only vulgar, obscene and trash literature is available in plenty, and whether in view of this, the Minister will take care that this extra benefit given to the established importers is not utilised for that nefarious purpose ?

SHRI MANUBHAI SHAH : Well, Sir, I do not entirely agree with the hon. Member. It is true that we had to cut some foreign exchange for the import of books and literature.

But actually the imports, because of the licences of the previous years, have been much larger in the last year than the previous years. Therefore, the proportion of good literature coming here has not been reduced. Regarding the small portion which is described as fiction and under which all those types of things come, I would be very much obliged to the hon. Minister if he can give a proper description which can be insisted on the Customs as to what should be considered to be a desirable fiction and what is a less desirable fiction.

MH. CHAIRMAN : The Question Hour is over.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

DE-SCHEDULING OF CERTAIN TRIBES/ CASTES

•435. SHRI RAM SINGH : Will the Minister of SOCIAL WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have decided to de-schedule certain scheduled tribes and scheduled castes because their condition has improved; and

(b) If so, which are the tribes/castes proposed to be de-scheduled ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL WELFARE (SHRIMATI MARAGATHAM CHANDRASEKHAR): (a) and (b) The whole question of revision of lists of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes is under consideration. Meetings are being held with Members of Parliament and State Ministers belonging to Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes to finalise the matter.

IMPORT OF CORDUROYS BY U.K.?

♦438. SHRI A. D. MANI : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government of United Kingdom has permitted the import of corduroys from India; and

(b) if so, what is the possibility of Indian corduroys securing a sizeable market in the United Kingdom at a result of this concession ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI M. SHAH QURESHI) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Production of corduroys in India is very limited, internal prices are high and international competition in this line is keen. However, the possibility of exporting corduroys to the U.K. is being explored.