

15th June, 1957, which gives all the details with regard to the publications by this Trust.

NATIONAL COMMITTEE ON EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION

*388. SHRI V. S. SARWATE: Will the Minister of EDUCATION AND SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH be pleased to state:

(a) the number of times during the last three years when meetings of the National Committee on Early Childhood Education were held;

(b) the number of members present at each of those meetings;

(c) whether the Committee made any recommendations at those meetings;

(d) if so, what are the recommendations made by the Committee; and

(e) what action has been taken by Government in respect of those recommendations?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EDUCATION AND SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH (DR. K. L. SHRIMALI): (a) No meeting of the National Committee on Early Childhood Education was held during the last three years.

(b) to (e). The Committee met only once in April 1953 and in view of the fact that the pressure of the needs of Elementary Education left little room for any considerable expansion of the scheme at pre-primary level, it was not considered necessary to hold any further meetings of the Committee.

SHRI V. S. SARWATE: Will the Government of India inform the House whether, in view of the fact that for the last three years they had not met even once, a new Committee would be appointed?

DR. K. L. SHRIMALI: Sir, the position with regard to this Committee is this. When it was appointed, we had hoped that some funds would be available for the expansion of education at the pre-primary stage. But it was found that the pressure with regard

to elementary education was so great that it would be difficult for the Government to divert any substantial amount for pre-primary education. Therefore, it was not necessary to call meetings of this Committee.

SHRI RAGHAVENDRARAO: Why not dissolve it?

DR. K. L. SHRIMALI: It has been dissolved now.

CHILDREN'S BOOK TRUST

*389. SHRI V. S. SARWATE: Will the Minister of EDUCATION AND SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH be pleased to state:

(a) what work has so far been done by the Children's Book Trust;

(b) whether any books or other literature have been brought out by that Trust;

(c) if the answer to part (b) above be in the negative, when it is expected to do so; and

(d) who are the Directors, Trustees or members of the Managing Committee of the Trust?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EDUCATION AND SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH (DR. K. L. SHRIMALI): (a) and (b). The Trust has not started functioning as yet.

(c) It is difficult to say anything definite at the present moment.

(d) The Trustees are: Shrimati Indira Gandhi, Shri N. K. Sidhanta, Shri Hasari Prasad Dwivedi, Shrimati Ramala Devi Chattopadhyaya, Shri S. Vidyannath Aiyar, Shrimati Qudsia Zaidi, Shri K. Shankar Pillai, Dr. Zakir Hussain.

DR. SHRIMATI SEETA PARMA-NAND: How long has this Trust been in existence and how long will it take to function?

DR. K. L. SHRIMALI: I should like to inform the hon. Member that this is entirely a private Trust and the Government of India has no responsibility, except that the Government of India agreed to give them a loan and, I do