

SARDAR SWARAN SINGH: I have mentioned that only the project report has been drawn up. The question of machinery will arise only after negotiations have been undertaken and a firm agreement has been arrived at.

SHRI KISHEN CHAND: May I know whether this plant is purchased from Russia, because they are giving us credit facilities, or has the Government invited world tenders and it is found that the Russian tender is the lowest tender?

SARDAR SWARAN SINGH: Government has not yet issued any tender enquiries with the object of finding out what are the competitive values. But on account of our difficult foreign exchange position, if there is any longterm credit available, Government would like to utilise it whether it is from this country or from any other country.

SHRI KISHEN CHAND: May I know whether the Government would agree to pay such higher price, provided it gets credit from any country, or whether it will consider and accept a lower tender even if it has to pay cash price for it?

SARDAR SWARAN SINGH: That, Sir, is a very hypothetical question.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Questions are over.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

RAISING THE SALARIES OF PRIMARY SCHOOL TEACHERS IN ANDHRA PRADESH

*89. SHRI M. H. SAMUEL: Will the Minister of EDUCATION AND SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government of Andhra Pradesh has written to the Government of India on the subject of raising the salaries of primary school teachers in the State to the minimum level recommended by the Central Government; and

(b) if so, the decision the Government of India have taken on that communication?

THE MINISTER OF STATE in THE MINISTRY OF EDUCATION AND SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH (DR. K. L. SHRIMALI) : (a) The Government of Andhra Pradesh have proposed increased scales for their teachers.

(b) The matter is under consideration.

PERSONALITY TESTS FOR ALL INDIA AND OTHER CENTRAL SERVICES EXAMINATIONS

*90. SHRI M. H. SAMUEL: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether he has expressed his dissatisfaction with the Personality Tests conducted by the Union Public Service Commission for the Indian Administrative Service and other Central Services examinations; and

(b) if so, whether Government propose to make any changes in the system?

THE MINISTER OF STATE in THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI B. N. DATAR): (a) The Home Minister had sometime back expressed his view that undue importance and weightage were being given to Personality Test in the Indian Administrative Service etc. Examination inasmuch as candidates who stood high in the written test were rejected if they failed to secure the minimum number of qualifying marks prescribed for *viva voce* examination. He, however, did not express his dissatisfaction with the Personality Test as such.

(b) It has since been decided that from 1957 Competitive Examination onwards no minimum qualifying marks in the Personality Test will be fixed but the marks secured in the test will be added to the marks obtained in written papers and the candidates will be ranked on the basis of total marks.