

giving the information is laid on the Table of the Sabha.

STATEMENT

Pensions—

- (1) Total number of applications received and transmitted to Pakistan for verification and issue of payment authorities. 3,009
- (2) Number verified by Pakistan:
 - (a) Accepted .. 952
 - (b) Rejected .. 388
- (3) Number pending with Pakistan for verification. 1,669
- (4) Number of applicants out of those shown against item (3) who got provisional payment or interim relief. 546

Provident Funds.—

- (1) Total number of applications received and transmitted to Pakistan for verification and issue of payment authorities .. 6,847
- (2) Number verified by Pakistan:
 - (a) Accepted .. 2,018
 - (b) Rejected .. 120
- (3) Number pending with Pakistan for verification. 4,709
- (4) Number of applicants out of those shown against item (3) who got provisional payment of 50% of the Provident Fund due 1,942

The question of expediting the verification of the claims was discussed with the Pakistan Government only recently and according to the arrangements arrived at it is hoped that bulk of the outstanding claims would be verified within a year.

English translation.

प्रेस सूचना विभाग द्वारा बुलाये गये प्रेस सम्मेलन

*४१. श्री कुष्णकान्त व्यास : क्या सूचना तथा प्रसारण मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि विगत तीन वर्षों में विभिन्न मंत्रालयों की ओर से प्रेस सूचना विभाग ने कितने प्रेस सम्मेलन बुलाये ?

[PRESS CONFERENCES HELD BY THE PRESS INFORMATION BUREAU

♦41. SHRI KRISHNAKANT WAS: Will the Minister for INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state the number of Press Conferences held during the last three years by the Press Information Bureau on behalf of the various Ministries?]

सूचना तथा प्रसारण मंत्री (डा० बी० वी० कसकर) : सन् १९५३, १९५४ और १९५५ में भारत सरकार के विभिन्न मंत्रालयों की ओर से प्रेस सूचना ब्यूरो ने क्रमशः ४७, ५६ और ६२ सम्मेलन बुलाये ।

[THE MINISTER FOR INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (DR. B. V. KESKAR) : The number of Press Conferences held during the year 1953, 1954 and 1955 by the Press Information Bureau on behalf of the different Ministries of the Government of India is 47, 56 and 62 respectively.]

COLLECTION AND PUBLICATION OF GANDHIJI'S ANECDOTES

♦42. SHRI D. NARAYAN: Will the Minister for INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

- (a) whether there is any proposal to collect and broadcast Gandhiji's anecdotes in different languages; and
- (b) if so, whether these collected anecdotes are to be published in book form also?

THE MINISTER FOR INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (DR. B. V. KESKAR): (a) and (b). As a part of 30th January celebrations All India Radio has initiated a new programme of broadcasting anecdotes of Gandhiji and wherever possible get living contemporaries to broadcast unpublished true anecdotes of Gandhiji.

It is proposed that later collected anecdotes will be published in a book-form.

PRODUCTION OF SOAP IN 1955

♦43. SHRI D. NARAYAN: Will the Minister for COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) the quantity of soap produced by foreign owned and managed soap factories in India in the year 1955; and

(b) the quantity of soap produced by indigenous soap factories in the country during that year?

THE MINISTER FOR INDUSTRIES (SHRI N. KANUNGO): (a) 57,810 tons.

(b) 161,900 tons.

AIR CONDITIONED COACH SERVICE ON THE NORTH EASTERN RAILWAY

*60. SHRI S. N. MAZUMDAR: Will the Minister for RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of trains on the North Eastern Railway in which air-conditioned coach service is provided;

(b) the period for which such service has been available on those trains; and

(c) the number of passengers who have so far availed of that service?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER FOR RAILWAYS AND TRANSPORT (SHRI O. V. ALAGESAN): (a) Four viz. Nos. 301/302 Avadh Tirhut Mail and Nos. 803/304 Link Express trains.

(b) From 1-4-55 on 301/302 Avadh Tirhut Mail trains and from 3-11-55 on 303/304 Link Express trains.

(c) 368 passengers during the period April, 1955, to January, 1956.

DEEP SEA FISHING

*64. SHRI J. V. K. VALLABHA-RAO: Will the Minister for FOOD AND AGRICULTURE be pleased to state whether he has received any representation from the Vice Chancellor of the Andhra University regarding the necessity of setting up research stations for examining the possibilities of deep sea fishing at Visakhapatnam and Bhemunipatnam in Andhra State?

THE MINISTER FOR FOOD AND AGRICULTURE (SHRI A. P. JAIN): No, Sir.

EXPORT PROMOTION COUNCIL FOR ENGINEERING GOODS

9. SHRI M. VALIULLA: Will the Minister for COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether an Export Promotion Council for Engineering Goods has been set up; and

(b) if so, where it has been set up and what will be its plan of activities?

THE MINISTER FOR COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI T. T. KRISHNA-MACHARI):

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Council has its headquarters at Calcutta. A statement showing the main objects of the Council is attached. [See Appendix XII, Annexure No. 9.1 It is understood that the Council proposes to undertake the following work during the coming months: —

(i) Compilation of statistics of production, exportable surpluses and actual exports from India of all engineering goods.