

that this punishment would be sufficient in the particular case.

PROCUREMENT OF ANCIENT BOOKS

*427. SHRI H. C. MATHUR: Will the Minister for EDUCATION be pleased to state.

(a) whether Government are aware that some ancient books of great scientific and research value belonging to this country are being purchased by foreigners;

(b) whether Government have been informed by the Indian Ambassador in America of any American agency proposing to visit India with a view to procure ancient books of great scientific and research values; and

(c) what is the total amount of the price of such books procured by Government from private agency in India since 15th August 1947?

THE PARLIAMENTARY SECRETARY TO THE MINISTER FOR EDUCATION (DR K. L. SHRIMALI): (a) No, Sir.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) It is not possible to answer the question in this general form.

SHRI H. C. MATHUR: May I know, Sir, what the policy is? Whether Government has got any policy whatsoever in respect of such valuable books in the country?

DR. K. L. SHRIMALI: At present the position is that there is no statutory bar for any person, foreigner or otherwise, to purchase any books, ancient or modern, from any private agency or bookshop within the country. But as soon as the question of export comes in, the Antiquities (Export Control) Act, 1947 applies which would not allow the export of ancient manuscripts.

SHRI H. C. MATHUR: May I know, Sir, what is the attitude of the Government in procuring such valuable documents and such books in the country?

DR. K. L. SHRIMALI: Government procure such books when they are brought to their notice provided they are worthy of being purchased and their owners are prepared to sell at a reasonable price.

SHRI H. C. MATHUR: Is the Government aware that there is a great treasure of such ancient and very valuable books in the country and they are being moth-eaten in most of the places?

DR. K. L. SHRIMALI: Government are not aware of this and I shall be glad if the hon. Member brings to the notice of Government any such valuable books so that they can arrange to procure them, if necessary.

SHRI R. U. AGNIBHOJ: Has the Government got any research section or any library where such books can be preserved and deciphered in the public interest?

DR. K. L. SHRIMALI: Yes, Sir; Government have in the Archæological Department and National Archives all the collections of manuscripts and they are trying to decipher them.

SHRI P. C. BHANJ DEO: May I know, Sir, whether Government has taken any steps for bringing ancient documents and books to this country from England and America?

DR. K. L. SHRIMALI: I am not aware of any such scheme.

SHRIMATI VIOLET ALVA: What are the agencies we have in the country to collect this type of valuable books and documents and where are they?

DR. K. L. SHRIMALI: I do not think we have established any agencies for collection of books.

SHRI H. C. MATHUR: May I know, Sir, whether the Government has taken any steps whatsoever, during these seven years, to be in a position to procure some of these valuable books?

DR. K. L. SHRIMALI: As I said, Government do collect books whenever

such books are brought to their notice. We shall examine this question again.

SHRI H. C. MATHUR: Is the Parliamentary Secretary aware that even in his own State there are most valuable books in the possession of ex-Rulers which are being moth-eaten?

DR. K. L. SHRIMALI: I do not know, Sir, how valuable they are. But as I said, if the hon. Member brings to our notice.....

MR. CHAIRMAN: Mr. Valiulla.

DR. K. L. SHRIMALI: The owners are not willing to part with these books.

INCREASE IN MILITARY TRAINING FACILITIES

*428. SHRI M. VALIULLA: Will the Minister for DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) the particulars regarding the increase in training facilities in the country and of the new courses introduced since 1947;

(b) the number of Army Officers and subordinates who have been sent for training abroad so far in 1954-55; and

(c) the number of officers who returned to India after their training in 1952-53 and 1953-54?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER FOR DEFENCE (SARDAR S. S. MAJITHIA):

(a) Most of the training required for the Army and the Air Force is given in India. Since August 1952, the training of Naval cadets of the Executive and Supply and Secretariat Branches has also commenced in the country. Plans to start training facilities in other Branches of the Navy are under consideration.

(b) 8 officers and 2 JCOs have been sent during the period April to August 1954.

(c)

Year	Army	Navy	Air Force	Total
1952-53	36	14	23	73
1953-54	30	25	64	119

SHRI M. VALIULLA: Are these officers employed after their training?

SARDAR S. S. MAJITHIA: Yes, most of them are employed as instructors.

SHRI M. VALIULLA: May I know, Sir, the number of the officers who have not yet been employed?

SARDAR S. S. MAJITHIA: Yes, Sir, if the House requires some figures, on 1st April 1949 we had 67 officers and now we have got only 14.

SHRI M. VALIULLA: With regard to the second part of (a) of my question about the new courses introduced since 1947, it is stated in the annual report that since 1947 training facilities have been increased in the country and new courses have been introduced. May I take it that there are no new courses opened till 1952-53?

SARDAR S. S. MAJITHIA: There are quite a lot of new courses opened, Sir, and I have got here with me five pages typed. And if the hon. Member wants it, I shall only be too pleased to give the information.

SHRI M. VALIULLA: The new courses have been introduced since 1947. And now the hon. Minister says he has got a five-page note. It could have been laid on the Table.

SARDAR S. S. MAJITHIA: I have got the courses here. Does the hon. Member want me to read them out to him?

MR. CHAIRMAN: No, no. Next question.

CONSTRUCTION OF NAVAL CRAFT AND WAR VESSELS IN INDIA

*429. SHRI M. VALIULLA: Will the Minister for DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to start building Naval Craft and minor War Vessels; and if so, where; and