

(b) whether Government have recently received any representations to this effect from any experts?

THE MINISTER FOR COMMERCE (SHRI D. P. KARMARKAR): (a) and (b). The reply is in the negative. The Government have no such proposal on hand.

FLATS FOR M.Ps.

***652. DR. SHRIMATI SEETA PARMANAND:** Will the Minister for WORKS, HOUSING AND SUPPLY be pleased to state:

(a) the amount of money spent during 1952-53 and 1953-54 on

(i) the construction of flats for Members of Parliament; and

(ii) the repairs and additions to these flats;

(b) the number of servants' quarters and garages attached to these flats which were built during the same period;

(c) the number of flats, bungalows, garages and servants' quarters allotted solely to M.Ps. and their servants; and

(d) the names of contractors who executed these works?

THE MINISTER FOR WORKS, HOUSING AND SUPPLY (SARDAR SWARAN SINGH): (a), (b), (c) and (d). A statement giving the required information is placed on the Table of the Council. [See Appendix VII, Annexure No. 295.]

SCHOOLS AND LANGUAGES IN NEFA

***653. SHRI R. THANHLIRA:** Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the number of primary schools and secondary schools established in each of the districts of the North East Frontier Agency till the end of 1953; and

(b) the various measures taken by Government for the development of the tribal languages spoken in the North East Frontier Agency?

THE PARLIAMENTARY SECRETARY TO THE PRIME MINISTER (SHRIMATI LAKSHMI MENON): (a) and (b). Detailed information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House when received.

AUDITION OF ARTISTES

***654. DR. N. S. HARDIKER:** Will the Minister for INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) how many artistes have so far been invited by the A. I. R. for audition tests;

(b) whether it is a fact that some of the artistes absented themselves from the tests as a mark of protest; and

(c) whether there was any agitation against these tests and if so, whether it has now been settled?

THE MINISTER FOR INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (DR. B. V. KESKAR): (a) 3,593.

(b) Yes, Sir. Some artistes did absent themselves as a protest against auditions in Bombay and in Dharwar.

(c) Last year at the time of auditions, an agitation was started by some artistes and some artistes boycotted A. I. R. Their number was not large. Later the representatives of the artistes saw me and, after discussion, they realised that the auditions were mainly meant for helping the artistes by encouraging the deserving and meritorious amongst them. The agitation was withdrawn and the artistes have promised complete co-operation in the work of A.I.R.

RECRUITMENT TO CERTAIN OFFICES IN THE A. I. R.

***655. DR. N. S. HARDIKER:** Will the Minister for INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) the number of Station Directors, Assistant Station Directors and

Programme Executives at each of the Stations of the All India Radio; and

(b) whether any efforts are being made to balance the linguistic proportion in the recruitment of these officers?

THE MINISTER FOR INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (DR. B. V. KESKAR): (a) A statement is placed on the Table of the Council. [See Appendix VII, Annexure No. 296.]

(b) Two statements showing the number of officers according to their home States and languages are laid on the Table of the Council. Station Directors and Assistant Station Directors have not been recruited on linguistic basis. As at present constituted, the largest number come from Punjab. Then comes West Bengal and next is Madras. Bihar and Madhya Pradesh have none. [For statements see Appendix VII, Annexure Nos. 297 and 298.]

As far as Programme Executives are concerned, Punjab, Uttar Pradesh and Madras have the largest number.

Linguistic knowledge has some importance for Programme Executives and Programme Assistants as they have to deal with day-to-day administration now. As the cadre is at present constituted, the largest number of Programme Assistants come from Punjab which has 25 numbers on the staff in the cadre of Programme Assistants. Next is Bombay State which has 23, then West Bengal with 19 and Madras State with 18. The question of meeting the linguistic requirements of each Station of A.I.R. is under consideration. It is obvious that the staff which forms the cadre of Programme Executives and Programme Assistants might not at present be able to meet the linguistic requirements of the stations. The question of equipping the staff better for linguistic facility by learning one or more languages is under active consideration.

IMPORT OF CASHEW-NUT FROM AFRICA

*656. SHRI N. C. SEKHAR: Will the Minister for COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether any representation was received by Government from the representatives of the Cashew-nut Factories Owners' Syndicate, Travancore-Cochin State, for the grant of special licence for importing cashew-nut from Africa; and

(b) if so, what action has been taken by Government thereon?

THE MINISTER FOR COMMERCE (SHRI D. P. KARMARKAR): (a) and (b). No representation was made by the Cashew-nut Factories Owners' Syndicate, Travancore-Cochin. Some representations from the South India Cashew-nut Manufacturers' Association were, however, received and the matter is under consideration.

FAIRS AND EXHIBITIONS HELD ABROAD AND IN INDIA

*657. SHRIMATI K. BHARATHI: Will the Minister for COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) the number of fairs and exhibitions held since 1953 in India and abroad in which the Government of India participated; and

(b) whether coir and coir goods had been exhibited in those fairs and exhibitions?

THE MINISTER FOR COMMERCE (SHRI D. P. KARMARKAR): (a) and (b). A statement of fairs and exhibitions held abroad since 1953 and in which Government of India participated is placed on the Table of the Council. Coir and coir products were displayed at all these exhibitions. [See Appendix VII, Annexure No. 299.]

Government of India did not participate in any exhibition or fair in India.