

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.