

(२) सहय्यार्थ कलावन्तों और साहित्यिकों को चुनने का क्या तरीका होगा,

(३) इस योजनार्थ इस साल कितना खर्च रखा गया है और कितना खर्च हो चुका है ?

†[FINANCIAL AID TO ARTISTES

*288. SHRI D. NARAYAN: Will the Minister for EDUCATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have prepared any scheme for giving financial aid to reputed artistes and literatures of the country with a view to encourage them and

(b) if so,—

(i) what amount each person will get under the scheme and on what terms;

(ii) what will be the method of selecting the artistes and literatures for giving the aid; and

(iii) what amount has been allocated for the scheme this year and how much has already been spent ?]

THE MINISTER FOR EDUCATION AND NATURAL RESOURCES AND SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH (MAULANA ABUL KALAM AZAD): (a) A scheme for financial assistance to persons distinguished in letters, art and other such walks of life, who may be in indigent circumstances, has been sanctioned.

(b) (i) Assistance will be in the form of suitable monthly allowance and/or a lump sum grant, according to the needs of each individual case.

(ii) Requests for such assistance may be in the form of applications by those in need or recommendations by State Governments, recognised organisations or persons of eminence in various walks of life. Assistance to

be given in deserving cases will be decided by a committee consisting of the Prime Minister, the Education Minister and the Finance Minister.

(iii) A sum of Rs. one lakh has been allocated for the Scheme for this year. An amount of Rs. 2,950 has been spent so far.

MEDICAL CONCESSIONS TO MINISTERS AND MEMBERS OF PARLIAMENT

*289. SHRI M. VALIULLA: Will the Minister for FINANCE be pleased to state the amount spent from 1948 onwards on medical concessions to—

(i) Ministers, and

(ii) Members of Parliament other than Ministers ?

THE MINISTER FOR REVENUE AND EXPENDITURE (SHRI MAHAVIR TYAGI): The required information is not readily available and is being collected. It will be laid on the Table of the House in due course.

CHARITABLE AND RELIGIOUS ENDOWMENTS

*290. SHRI M. VALIULLA: Will the Minister for EDUCATION be pleased to state:

(a) the number of (i) charitable and (ii) religious endowments received by the Ministry pertaining the subjects dealt with by them from 15 August, 1947 uptodate;

(b) the total amount of these endowments; and

(c) subjects for which these endowments are used ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER FOR EDUCATION AND NATURAL RESOURCES AND SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH (SHRI K. D. MALAVIYA): (a), (b) and (c) Nil.

ORDNANCE FACTORIES

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

(a) the number of ordnance factories in India in 1946 and in 1952;

(b) the number of such factories closed during 1946 to date; and

(c) the number of such factories started during the same period?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER FOR DEFENCE (SARDAR S. S. MAJITHIA) : (a) The number of ordnance factories in India in 1946 was 27. The number existing in 1952 is 20.

(b) 7, of which 6 were not actually independent production units but were fabricating centres for components of clothing items and leather items received from other factories. The seventh was closed down, but was not actually in production even during the war.

There were three other factories of which 2 were transferred to other departments of the Central Government and one to a State Government. One Factory went to Pakistan on partition. This was the Parachute Factory, Lahore.

(c) 3 new factories have been started and one factory has been taken over from another Ministry and put in full commission.

STERLING BALANCES

*292. SHRI B. GUPTA : Will the Minister for FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the amount spent up-to-date out of India's sterling balances accumulated during the war years in Britain;

(b) the exact amount utilised for meeting the deficit in India's trade balance; and

(c) the amount spent on—

(i) the import of machineries, and

(ii) the import of consumers' goods, out of the such sterling balances?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER FOR FINANCE (SHRI M. C. SHAH) :

(a) Between 5th April 1946, i.e., shortly after 1st April 1946, the official date of termination of hostilities, and the 5th December 1952 an amount of Rs. 1,035 crores has been spent out of India's sterling balances.

(b) It is not possible to say how much has been utilised for meeting the deficit in India's trade balance, as separate accounts of sterling balances utilised individually for meeting trade deficits and invisible transactions on current and capital account are not maintained. However, the deficit on trade account from January 1946 to September 1952, for which period alone figures are available, was approximately Rs. 657 crores.

(c) Imports are financed not merely from accumulated sterling balances but also from current foreign exchange earnings. It is also not possible to say how much sterling has been spent on the import of machinery or consumer goods, as trade accounts are not classified into such categories as consumer's goods and non-consumer's goods. However, a broad survey indicates that payments for import of machinery during January 1946/August 1952, for which period alone figures are available, amounted to approximately Rs. 445 crores and consumer goods of the value of Rs. 1,074 crores were imported during the period July 1948 to September 1952.

ARCHAEOLOGICAL RECORDS

*293. SHRI T. D. PUSTAKE : Will the Minister for EDUCATION be pleased to state what steps Government propose to take to bring back monuments and pictures of archaeological importance which were taken away by the British Government from India and are at present kept in the British Museum?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER FOR EDUCATION AND NATURAL RESOURCES AND SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH (SHRI K. D. MATAVIYA) : During the last hundred and fifty year