

(ग) इन राज्यों को वितरण के लिये, उचित मात्रा में खाद्यान्न देने का प्रबन्ध कर दिया गया है और किया जायेगा ।

Theft of Rifles

*91. **Shri Bishwanath Roy:** Will the Minister of Defence be pleased to state whether it is a fact that some rifles out of a consignment despatched from Central Ordnance Depot, Jubbalpur to Rifle Factory, Ishapore, were recently stolen from the Rail-way wagon carrying them?

The Deputy Minister of Defence (Shri Raghuramaiah): Yes. The missing rifles have since been recovered.

Conversion of Unsold Tobacco into Manure in Madras

*92. **Shri S. R. Arumugham:** Will the Minister of Finance be pleased to state:

(a) the loss of revenue to Government as excise duty on tobacco and the approximate loss to the agriculturists in Madras State by the conversion of unsold tobacco into manure during the years 1955-56 and 1956-57; and

(b) the present stock position of tobacco and the anticipated amount by way of additional duty on tobacco from Madras State?

The Deputy Minister of Finance (Shri B. R. Bhagat): (a) There is no loss of revenue since Item 91(7) of the First Schedule to the Central Excises and Salt Act, 1944, provides for clearance of unmanufactured tobacco for agricultural purposes at nil rate of excise duty. It is not possible to ascertain the loss to the agriculturists since the department does not maintain statistics regarding the value of such tobacco.

(b) The present stock of tobacco in the Madras State is 92.2 mn. lbs. The anticipated amount by way of additional duty for the year 1957-58 is Rs. 62 lakhs.

Investment of Life Insurance Corporation Funds

*93. { **Shri Morarka:**
Shri Nathwani:
Shri Khushwaqt Rai:
Shri S. V. Ramaswami:
Shri T. K. Choudhuri:
Shri Rameshwar Tantia:

Will the Minister of Finance be pleased to lay a statement on the Table showing:

(a) the amount of insurance fund of the Life Insurance Corporation at present;

(b) the purposes for which the fund is being utilised;

(c) the method followed by the Corporation for the purchase and sale of shares of the joint-stock companies;

(d) the amount invested upto the 30th September, 1957 in debentures and shares of joint-stock companies (company-wise);

(e) the sales, if any, made by the Corporation of any shares or securities held by the erstwhile life insurance companies;

(f) whether it is a fact that funds have been invested in foreign firms; and

(g) if so, the reasons therefor?

The Deputy Minister of Finance (Shri B. R. Bhagat): (a) The Life Insurance Fund of the Corporation stood at Rs. 378.9 crores, approximately, on 31-8-1956.

(b) The amounts at credit of the Life Insurance Fund are utilised in meeting claims on policies matured or surrendered, granting loans to policyholders within the surrender value of their policies, and generally in making investments in securities and shares, on mortgages of property, on acquisition of land and house property, etc.

(c) The Corporation, on receipt of offers of sale and purchase of shares from share and stock brokers as also

from other parties, completes necessary transactions, if found advantageous, after taking the advice of its Investment Committee.

(d) The total amount invested in shares and debentures of joint stock companies upto the 30th September, 1957, is about Rs. 65.71 crores. It is not possible to indicate the investments company-wise.

(e) The total sale made by the Corporation from 1-9-56 to 30-9-57 amounted to Rs 8.97 crores.

(f) and (g) The Corporation has not invested any funds in foreign firms.

Development of Laccadive, Minicoy and Amindivi Islands

*94. { Shri Abdul Salam:
Shri Shivnanajappa:

Will the Minister of Home Affairs be pleased to state:

(a) whether the development programmes proposed for inclusion in the Second Five Year Plan of the Laccadive, Mimcoy and Amindivi Islands were discussed recently;

(b) if so, the nature of development programmes included; and

(c) the amount allotted for the development of these Islands under the Second Five Year Plan?

The Deputy Minister of Home Affairs (Shrimati Alva): (a) Yes, Sir

(b) and (c) A statement is placed on the Table of the Lok Sabha [See Appendix I, annexure No. 24]

Excavation at Sisupalgarh, Orissa

*95. **Shri Supakar:** Will the Minister of Education and Scientific Research be pleased to state:

(a) the dates when the excavation work of Sisupalgarh in Orissa was commenced and completed by the Department of Archaeology;

(b) whether it is a fact that no final report of the excavation has been published as yet; and

(c) if so, the reasons therefor?

The Minister of State in the Ministry of Education and Scientific Research (Dr. K. L. Shrimall): (a) Excavations at Sisupalgarh were commenced in March, 1948, and continued till June that year. Another season's work was done in the financial year 1949-50.

(b) and (c). The report published in Ancient India, No. 5 (1949) is to be regarded as final report for all archaeological purposes

Survey for Precious Stones and Gold in Andhra

*96. { Shri Nagi Reddy:
Shri Balrama Krishnalah:

Will the Minister of Steel, Mines and Fuel be pleased to state:

(a) whether any survey has been conducted for precious stones and gold in the Districts of Anantapur and Kurnool in Andhra Pradesh;

(b) if so, with what results, and

(c) whether Government propose to pursue the matter for deeper investigation?

The Minister of Mines and Oil (Shri K. D. Malaviya): (a) and (b). A preliminary reconnaissance survey was made of the Anantapur District by the Geological Survey of India in 1953-54 and again in 1956-57. No similar survey has been carried out so far in the Kurnool District. This survey did not establish the existence of diamond but only of some gold.

(c) As the prospects are not very hopeful further work will be undertaken for diamonds and gold in this area only if resources permit.