

Amritsar Border

- *1070. { Dr. Ram Subhag Singh;
Shri P. G. Deb;
Maharajkumar Vijaya
Ananda;

Will the Minister of Home Affairs be pleased to state:

(a) how many people have been arrested at Amritsar border for illegal entry into India from 1st January to 31st July, 1961; and

(b) how many of them have been sentenced?

The Minister of State in the Ministry of Home Affairs (Shri Datar): (a) 100.

(b) 56.

Firing on Indian Troops in Katanga

- *1071. { Shri Assar;
Shri D. C. Sharma;
Shri Ram Krishan Gupta;
Shri Nagi Reddy;
Shrimati Mafida Ahmed;
Shri M. B. Thakore;
Dr. Ram Subhag Singh;
Shrimati Ila Palchoudhuri;
Shri Kalika Singh;
Shri P. G. Deb;
Shri K. B. Malviya;

Will the Minister of Defence be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there was a firing on Indian troops on the 17th July, 1961 by Katanga gendarmerie;

(b) if so, the details of the incident; and

(c) the action taken by the Government of India?

The Minister of Defence (Shri Krishna Menon): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) On 17th July, Indian troops were manning a road check barrier at Niemba in North Katanga. Some Gendarmerie soldiers approached the barrier and tried to remove it. Indian troops tried to prevent them from doing so but the Gendarmerie opened

fire against them. Our troops returned the fire. There were no casualties on the Indian side.

(c) No action by the Government of India is called for.

Soviet Botanical Experts

- *1072. { Shri Tangamani;
Shri Kunhan;

Will the Minister of Scientific Research and Cultural Affairs be pleased to state:

(a) whether six Soviet botanical experts visited centres like Coimbatore, Ooty, Poona and Bangalore during May, 1961;

(b) if so, the nature of study undertaken;

(c) whether any report has been submitted to Government; and

(d) whether the Chief Botanist of India was also associated with the study?

The Deputy Minister of Scientific Research and Cultural Affairs (Dr. M. M. Das): (a) The six Soviet Botanists visited different parts of India including Coimbatore, Ooty and Bangalore, but not Poona.

(b) They did not undertake any study. They came to collect specimens of Indian plants, seeds and seedlings with a view to their propagation and introduction in the U.S.S.R.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Botanists from the Botanical Survey of India including the Chief Botanist accompanied the Soviet Botanist during their collection tours to different parts of India.

Drilling at Sertha

*1073. Shri P. C. Borooah: Will the Minister of Steel, Mines and Fuel be pleased to state:

(a) whether drilling of the second well in Sertha has been taken up and if so, whether it has since been completed; and