

scholars return they will be employed by the respective Companies.

IMPERIAL BANK OF INDIA

*507. **Shri A. M. Thomas:** (a) Will the Minister of Finance be pleased to state whether the Imperial Bank of India has decided to close or has closed its branches in Pakistan?

(b) If so, what are the reasons for the decision?

The Deputy Minister of Finance (Shri M. C. Shah): (a) Out of the 25 offices which continued to function in Pakistan after the partition, 16 have been closed between July and September, 1952.

(b) On the establishment of the State Bank of Pakistan as Pakistan's central banking authority, the Imperial Bank's branches in Pakistan conducted Government business as the sole agents of the State Bank. This, however, was a temporary arrangement pending the establishment of the National Bank of Pakistan and between April and September 1952 this Bank took over the Government business. Partly in consequence of the loss of Government business and partly because it became apparent that, at many of the centres involved, the other business would be insufficient to permit of both the National Bank of Pakistan and the Imperial Bank of India continuing to operate on an economic basis, the Imperial Bank of India had to close the 16 offices referred to above.

Shri A. M. Thomas: May I know, Sir, whether there is any proposal to abolish the remaining branches also?

Shri M. C. Shah: No, Sir.

Shri A. M. Thomas: May I know, Sir, what exactly has been the average early turn-over or the working capital of these branches taken together after partition?

Shri M. C. Shah: That information is not with us.

Shri A. C. Guha: May I know whether the Imperial Bank possessed any property in these territories and, if so, what happened to those properties?

Shri M. C. Shah: In 1951 we had information that their assets were to the extent of Rs. 21 crores and 93 lakhs. There were liabilities accordingly—time liabilities, demand liabilities, investments, etc.

Shri K. Subrahmanyam: Is there any Pakistan Bank operating in India?

Shri M. C. Shah: The Habib Bank of Bombay.

Mr. Speaker: His point is whether any bank registered in Pakistan is at present operating in India?

The Minister of Finance (Shri C. D. Deshmukh): I think the Habib Bank was first registered in India. Later on they moved on to Pakistan but they continue to have branches in India.

Shri B. S. Murthy: What has happened to the properties of the Imperial Bank whose branches in Pakistan have been closed?

Shri M. C. Shah: There are still nine branches working there. There were certain time liabilities, demand liabilities, investments, etc. They have all been adjusted.

SUPREME COURT AND HIGH COURTS

*508. **Shri S. N. Das:** Will the Minister of Home Affairs be pleased to state:

(a) the number of days the Supreme Court of India and the various High Courts worked during 1950 and 1951;

(b) whether all the High Courts and the Supreme Court of India enjoy similar long vacations; and

(c) if not, what is the period of long vacation prevalent in each of these Courts?

The Deputy Minister of Home Affairs (Shri Datar): (a) to (c). A statement is laid on the Table of the House. (See Appendix III, annexure No. 11).

Shri S. N. Das: May I know, Sir, whether the long vacations enjoyed by these courts are similar to those enjoyed by them before the 15th August 1947?

Shri Datar: They are the same.

Shri S. N. Das: May I know, Sir, what is the purpose behind these long vacations?

Shri Datar: To recoup themselves.

Shri S. N. Das: May I know, Sir, whether in view of increased work and accumulated arrears, the question of reducing the long period of vacations has been considered by Government?

Mr. Speaker: Order, order. He is clearly making a suggestion for action.

to (c). A