

Shri S. V. Ramaswamy: What is the proportion of marks?

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: I have gone over to the other question.

OPIUM SMUGGLING

*1156. **Dr. Ram Subhag Singh:** Will the Minister of Finance be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that opium-smuggling has enormously increased during the recent months;

(b) the total quantity of contraband opium seized by Customs officials during the latter half of the year 1952-53; and

(c) whether any action has been taken by Government to prevent opium-smuggling?

The Deputy Minister of Finance (Shri A. C. Guha): (a) No, Sir. It is not a fact that opium smuggling has increased; on the other hand it is on the decline.

(b) The quantity of contraband opium seized during the latter half of the year 1952-53, that is, from October, 1952 to date, by the Customs authorities who are concerned only with smuggling from and to foreign destinations, is 6 maunds 7 seers 39 tolas.

(c) Inter-State smuggling is a matter for the State Excise authorities. Customs Officers at ports are always vigilant to intercept illegal exports. The following measures have been taken to prevent smuggling:

(i) Information in regard to international smuggling of opium is collected by the Narcotics Intelligence Bureau of the Office of the Narcotics Commissioners through its own agents, and placed at the disposal of the various Collectors of Customs for taking effective action.

(ii) Direct mutual exchange of information regarding such smuggling activities between Customs authorities in India and corresponding authorities in foreign countries has been permitted to enable prompt measures being taken to prevent smuggling.

(iii) Special intelligence sections exist in Custom Houses for dealing with offences relating to dangerous drugs.

(iv) Information is collected of all attempts at smuggling. A close study is continuously made of the *modus operandi* of the various

attempts to smuggle opium, so as to devise measures to counteract the activities of smugglers. Rewards are paid to those giving reliable information leading to seizures of opium.

Dr. Ram Subhag Singh: May I know the foreign destinations which the hon. Minister referred to?

Shri A. C. Guha: Opium is rather smuggled out of India more than it is smuggled inside India. The sources or the destinations are neighbouring countries like Iran, Turkey, and on this side, Burma, Indo-China and also Pakistan.

Dr. Ram Subhag Singh: How many persons have been detected for this smuggling?

Shri A. C. Guha: I have given the number of cases detected, the number of persons must have been more or less the same.

Shri Kasliwal: May I know whether one of the specialised agencies of the UNO has recommended the complete banning of opium cultivation?

Shri A. C. Guha: I would like to have notice.

Shri Namadas: May I know whether there is any separate department to deal with the smuggling of opium besides the customs officials?

Shri A. C. Guha: I think so. I have already referred to the special intelligence sections in the Customs houses.

Shri T. N. Singh: The figures of smuggling relate only to the sea customs or do they relate to Nepal?

Shri A. C. Guha: Inter-State smuggling is not included here. Only smuggling from or to outside India.

Shri T. N. Singh: Nepal is a foreign country.

Shri A. C. Guha: Inland smuggling is included in this but not inter-State.

Shri Punnoose: It is said that some of the officers have the advantage of studying the *modus operandi*. I want to know whether those officers practise smuggling in an expert way?

Shri A. C. Guha: I have no information.

CENTRAL DRUG RESEARCH INSTITUTE

*1158. **Shrimati Renu Chakravarty:** (a) Will the Minister of Natural Resources and Scientific Research be pleased to state what are the important

drugs that have been discovered in the Central Drug Research Institute, Lucknow, since its inception?

(b) Which of them have been tested in clinics and with what results?

(c) How many of them are being used in Government hospitals for treatment?

(d) Have any of them been leased out for production?

The Deputy Minister of Natural Resources and Scientific Research (Shri K. D. Malaviya): (a) to (d). The Institute has carried out work on the synthesis of certain new anti-leprosy drugs and therapeutic trials of two synthetic anti-leprosy drugs have been arranged with a Leper institution at Faizabad, U.P.

Shrimati Renu Chakravartty: May I know if it is produced in a big way and by whom?

Shri K. D. Malaviya: The Drug Research Institute has produced this synthetic drug in the original way. It is a modification over the prevalent amino sulphone that is being used from foreign countries but our drug is in an experimental stage. As soon as the experiments have been done and therapeutic tests made, then certainly the question of manufacture will come in.

Shrimati Renu Chakravartty: May I know whether it has been tested in the clinics and it has also been tried in Government hospitals?

Shri K. D. Malaviya: I have already said it is being tried out in the Leper Institution at Faizabad, U.P.

Shrimati Renu Chakravartty: Under what organisation this Central Drug Research Institute functions?

Shri K. D. Malaviya: Under the Council of Scientific and Industrial Research.

Shri Velayudhan: How many scientists are working there?

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: You are going away.....

Shri Velayudhan: How many scientists are working there and how many drugs they have now tested there?

Shri K. D. Malaviya: They are busy with many types of work. Just now, one of the important things in which they are engaged is to examine the active principles of Indian drugs and metallic preparations.

Dr. Jaisoorya: Is this Institute re-studying the work done by the Haffkine Institute with regard to anti-malarial drugs?

Shri K. D. Malaviya: I cannot give a specific answer to this question just now.

Shri K. K. Basu: May I know the total annual expenditure on this Institute and also whether any foreign scientists are connected with this institute?

Shri K. D. Malaviya: No foreign scientists as far as I am aware. As regards annual expenditure, I am afraid, I will require notice.

Shrimati Renu Chakravartty: As far as I could make out from the answer of the Minister, there is no drug which has been given out for production. Is that so, or am I under a misapprehension?

Shri K. D. Malaviya: This Institute is still in the early planning stage. Although it has done a lot of work, just now all the work that is done is the examination of the active principles of medicine. The entire work has been divided into four sections and most of the work just now done relates to fundamental or original knowledge.

Shri Raghavaiah: In view of the fact that this drug has produced appreciable results, may I know what steps are being taken to produce it on a large scale and make it available to the public?

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: It was said that they are still testing.

Dr. Suresh Chandra: Since when is this Institute working?

Shri K. D. Malaviya: It was opened on 17th February, 1951.

Shri V. P. Nayar: May I know whether the research operations here are directed by any person who has himself first-hand knowledge about research?

Shri K. D. Malaviya: Yes Sir; that is quite so.

COMMONWEALTH ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON DEFENCE SCIENCE

*1160. **Sardar A. S. Saigal:** (a) Will the Minister of Defence be pleased to state how many delegates attended the meetings of the Commonwealth Advisory Committee on Defence Science and what expenditure Government had to bear?