

(c) What happened so far as withdrawal or cancellation of the tenders was concerned?

(d) What were the views of the Central Mica Advisory Committee?

The Deputy Minister of Natural Resources and Scientific Research (Shri K. D. Malaviya): (a) to (d). A statement giving the information required is laid on the Table of the House. [See Appendix IX, annexure No. 1.]

Shri N. P. Sinha: In para. 4 of the statement to release that ".....the arrangement to release the stock was in accordance with the terms of the Mica Disposals Agreement". May I know in this connection whether the Agreement contains any stipulation that the whole stock should be released at once or it should be released bit by bit?

Shri K. D. Malaviya: The principle of the Agreement was to assure a gradual marketing of the mica.

Shri Nambiar: May I know why this 6 lakhs lbs. of mica are to be released at once? Will it not interfere with our export policy of mica? Will it not affect our industry?

Shri K. D. Malaviya: The whole question was examined by the Mica Disposals Panel but they thought that it was not too great a quantity to be curtailed.

Shri Nambiar: May I know whether there were complaints from the mica industrialists in India that by this release our industry will be affected?

Shri K. D. Malaviya: Yes, Sir, the question was considered and the views of our Associations were conveyed to the Panel but they thought that they were acting within the terms of the Agreement. The Government therefore could not do anything more in the matter.

Shri N. P. Sinha: May I know if the stocks have already been released or not?

Shri K. D. Malaviya: I cannot say about that but I can inform the hon. Member that out of the total stocks, less than half remains.

SMUGGLING OF GOLD

*1283. **Shri L. N. Mishra:** Will the Minister of Finance be pleased to state:

(a) the quantity of gold reported to have been smuggled from India to nei-

ghbouring foreign pockets and countries in 1952-53;

(b) the number of cases of gold smuggling detected in India in the year 1952-53; and

(c) the steps taken against the culprits?

The Deputy Minister of Finance (Shri A. C. Guha): (a) and (b). It is possible to state only how much gold has been detected in the act of smuggling. The total quantity of gold as detected during 1952-53 while being smuggled from India to the foreign pockets in India or to the neighbouring foreign countries is 829 tolas and the number of such detections is 227.

The number of cases in which gold was detected in 1952-53 while being smuggled into India is 256. The total number of cases detected in India in 1952-53, thus, comes to 483.

(c) In respect of the offences adjudicated so far by the Collectors of Customs, action has usually been taken under Section 167, Clause 8 of the Sea Customs Act. The offending gold has been confiscated with the owners being given the option to pay heavy fines in lieu thereof, and monetary penalties have been imposed on the persons concerned in the offence wherever called for. Apart from this departmental actions under the Sea Customs Act, in a few cases, offenders were also prosecuted in Courts and sentenced to various terms of imprisonments and to pay fines.

Shri L. N. Mishra: May I know the names of foreign pockets and countries to which gold was attempted to be smuggled from India?

Shri A. C. Guha: Gold is smuggled generally inside India rather than out of India. As far as smuggling of gold outside India is concerned, mostly it is smuggled to neighbouring foreign countries like Pakistan. As far as smuggling inside India is concerned, it is mostly from the foreign possessions in India and from Persian Gulf.

Shri L. N. Mishra: How does the figure of smuggling in 1952-53 compare with the figures of the last two years? Is it on the increase or decrease?

Shri A. C. Guha: I cannot say whether smuggling has increased or decreased but I can say that the figures of detected cases this year are smaller than the figures last year. I think previously, on another occasion, Mr. Tyagi gave the same reply.

Shri Jaipal Singh: May I know whether there are any instances of smuggling being done by aircraft? If the answer is in the affirmative, what are the names of the airlines involved?

Shri A. C. Guha: It is often smuggled by aircraft, particularly in Bombay and Calcutta, but it is not possible for me to give the names of the airlines. I have not got that information.

Shri V. P. Nayar: In yesterday's *Times of India* it was reported that 69,000 tolas of gold worth Rs. 63 crores have been smuggled in India. May I know whether it is a fact?

Shri A. C. Guha: I have no such information at present with me.

The Deputy Minister of Finance (Shri M. C. Shaji): Rs. 63 crores is practically a wrong figure. 69,000 tolas means about Rs. 63 lakhs or so.

ESTABLISHMENT OF BRANCHES OF RESERVE BANK

*1284. **Shri L. N. Mishra:** (a) Will the Minister of Finance be pleased to state whether there is some proposal that Reserve Bank should establish its branches on a wider basis?

(b) If so, what is the number of branches to be opened together with the names of the places?

The Deputy Minister of Finance (Shri A. C. Guha): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Bank's immediate programme is to open a branch each at Bangalore, Nagpur and Patna.

Shri L. N. Mishra: May I know when the Patna branch is likely to start functioning?

Shri A. C. Guha: The difficulty is, in most cases the Bank has to construct its own building for opening a new branch. Land is going to be acquired in Patna in consultation with the State Government.

Shri L. N. Mishra: May I know the policy behind the opening of these branches?

Shri A. C. Guha: The Rural Banking Enquiry Committee makes a recommendation that the Reserve Bank should open more branches so that they may facilitate the rural trading system and the Reserve Bank is undertaking a scheme to open more branches. At present it is going to open these three branches.

Shri T. S. A. Chettiar: Is there any legal bar for the Reserve Bank opening any branches outside capitals of State Governments?

Shri A. C. Guha: I do not think there is any such legal bar.

Shri A. M. Thomas: The provisions of the Indian Banking Companies Act such as the necessity to keep a certain percentage of deposits as reserve in cash or in the branches of the Reserve Bank or the Imperial Bank have now been applied to Part B States. May I know whether the Government is aware of the difficulties experienced by small banks with branches in semi-urban areas to deposit their money in the Reserve Bank whose branches are not distributed all over the country?

Shri A. C. Guha: I have no information. I would like to have notice.

Shri L. N. Mishra: If the idea is to utilise the resources of the Reserve Bank for credit facilities in rural areas then in what way are these facilities to be provided?

Shri A. C. Guha: I do not think there is any such immediate programme but I can only say that the recommendations of the Rural Banking Enquiry Committee provide for more branches.

INDIAN CURRENCY

*1285. **Shri Lakshman Singh Charak:** Will the Minister of Finance be pleased to state in how many parts of the country Indian Currency is not in circulation?

The Deputy Minister of Finance (Shri A. C. Guha): Indian Currency is at present circulating as legal tender throughout the Union of India.

Shri P. T. Chacko: May I know whether the Government are aware that since the withdrawal of Travancore coins, there is great scarcity for Indian coins in that area?

Shri A. C. Guha: We have no such information.

GRANTS TO PANJAB UNIVERSITY

*1288. **Prof. D. C. Sharma:** (a) Will the Minister of Education be pleased to state what amount, if any, the Government of India have granted to the Panjab University during the year 1952-53?

(b) Do Government propose to allocate more amount during the year 1953-54?

(c) If so, what is that amount?