

Shri T. N. Singh: Has the Finance Minister considered any proposal for expansion of the scope of financial advising on the spot?

Shri C. D. Deshmukh: No, Sir.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: Next question.

LOAN TO HYDERABAD FOR REHABILITATION OF DISPLACED PERSONS

***939. Shri Madhao Reddi:** Will the Minister of Rehabilitation be pleased to state whether any loan has been granted to the Government of Hyderabad for the rehabilitation of the displaced persons?

The Deputy Minister of Rehabilitation (Shri J. K. Bhonsle): Yes. Rs. 1.80 lakhs.

BERYL (PURCHASE)

***941. Dr. Amin:** Will the Minister of Natural Resources and Scientific Research be pleased to state whether it is a fact that the Atomic Energy Commission is purchasing Beryl from private mine owners, and if so, at what price?

The Deputy Minister of Natural Resources and Scientific Research (Shri K. D. Malaviya): Yes, Sir. A copy of the schedule of prices is laid on the Table of the House. [See Appendix VI, annexure No. 44.]

Dr. Amin: May I know what quantity of beryl has been purchased by the Atomic Energy Commission so far?

Shri K. D. Malaviya: It will not be in the public interest to disclose this information.

Dr. Amin: Is it a fact that production figures of beryl are published in the U. S. A. and Russia?

Shri K. D. Malaviya: I am not aware of it.

श्री रघुनाथ सिंह : इसमें हिन्दुस्तान को कितनी आवश्यकता होती है ?

श्री के. डी. मालवीय : जब काम होता है तब आवश्यकतायें बढ़ती भी हैं ।

Shri C. R. Narasimhan: Will it be possible for the hon. Minister to tell us from what parts of the country they have purchased beryl?

Shri K. D. Malaviya: There are various States. Beryl has been found in Rajasthan, Ajmer, Bihar, Madras and Travancore-Cochin.

BERYL (EXPORT)

***942. Dr. Amin:** (a) Will the Minister of Natural Resources and Scientific Research be pleased to state whether export of Beryl is prohibited by law?

(b) When was the ban on export of Beryl imposed?

(c) Has there been any export of Beryl from India after the ban was imposed?

The Deputy Minister of Natural Resources and Scientific Research (Shri K. D. Malaviya): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) On the 8th June, 1946.

(c) No, Sir.

TRANSFER OF MOVEABLE PROPERTY OF WARDS

***946. Shri Gidwani:** Will the Minister of Rehabilitation be pleased to state whether the provision regarding the transfer of the moveable property belonging to the wards and the exwards of the Court of Wards, which forms the part of the Indo-Pakistan Agreement of December, 1948, has been implemented?

The Minister of Rehabilitation (Shri A. P. Jain): The agreement of December, 1948 related only to the payment of suitable monthly allowances to wards, but did not deal with the question of transfer of moveable property belonging to wards.

Shri Gidwani: Is Government paying any monthly allowance to all the wards?

Shri A. P. Jain: There are no allowances received now.

EXCISE DUTY ON TOBACCO

***950. Shri Gidwani:** (a) Will the Minister of Finance be pleased to state whether the Government of India are aware that at the Conference of the Tobacco Merchants of Maharashtra and Karnatak held on 31st January, 1953 at Jaipur in Kolhapur District, Government was urged to introduce a flat rate of excise duty on Tobacco?

(b) Are Government aware that the conference also demanded the appointment of Regional Advisory Committees?

(c) If so, have Government considered the demands of the Conference?

(d) What is their decision?

The Deputy Minister of Finance (Shri M. C. Shah): (a) to (d). Yes; Government are aware of the Resolutions passed at the Conference in

question, urging *inter alia* (i) the imposition of a uniform rate of Central Excise duty on Tobacco, and (ii) the appointment of a Regional Advisory Committee from among tobacco interests to assist the Collectors of Central Excise.

As regards (i), the proposal has been examined very carefully in the past and will continue to receive Government's attention. The principal difficulty involved in the proposal has, however, been that it would not secure equitable distribution of the tax burden on the various sections of the tobacco industry.

As regards (ii), the matter is under examination.

Prof. D. C. Sharma: May I know if the existing excise duty on tobacco varies from State to State and what the excise duty on tobacco in the Punjab is?

Shri M. C. Shah: No, Sir; it does not vary from State to State.

Shri Raghavaiah: Will the Government of India consider the proposals made by the growers of tobacco that they should be exempted from the levy of this tobacco excise duty?

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: This is with regard to a flat rate; that relates to procedure.

Shri Shivanan Jappa: May I know whether the stem and dust used for manure purposes is exempted from the Central excise duty?

Shri M. C. Shah: Yes, Sir.

Shri Dabhi: May I know, Sir, whether it is a fact that Associations of Tobacco merchants of Kaira district also recently made representations to the hon. Minister urging him to introduce a flat rate of excise duty on tobacco and also for appointment of regional advisers?

Shri M. C. Shah: Yes, Sir, they have made representations.

सेठ अचल सिंह : क्या मंत्री महोदय बतलाने की कृपा करेंगे कि एक काश्तकार अपनी खानगी जरूरत के वास्ते, बगैर कर दिये हुये कितना रकबा तम्बाकू बो सकता है या उपज कर सकता है ?

Shri M. C. Shah: For chewing it is at the rate of 6 annas per pound.

The Minister of Defence Organisation (Shri Tyagi): He also wants to know how much is exempted?

Shri M. C. Shah: About 20 or 30 seers, or something like that.

Shri Raghavaiah: Has the Government of India considered the proposal made by the growers associations and certain State Governments that country tobacco should be exempted from the levy of the tax as against the virginia tobacco.

Shri M. C. Shah: We have not received any such representation.

सेठ अचल सिंह : क्या मंत्री महोदय बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि खुद अपनी खास जरूरत के वास्ते कितनी तम्बाकू काश्तकार पैदा कर सकता है ?

Shri M. C. Shah: I have already replied to that.

Shri Raghavaiah: Is the Government aware of the fact that just two days back the Madras State Government has exempted country tobacco from the levy of this tax?

Shri M. C. Shah: That refers to the sales tax, not to the excise duty.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: Excise duty is a Central subject.

IMPHAL TOWN FUND

*955. **Shri Rishang Keishing:** Will the Minister of States be pleased to state:

(a) the total area of the Imphal Town Fund and the areas both occupied and unoccupied since the integration of the State till the end of 1952;

(b) the number of families and their total population, community-wise living in the Imphal Town Fund Area;

(c) whether it is the policy of the Town Fund authorities to provide lands for residential purposes also in the Town Fund area;

(d) if so, how many applications have been received since the integration of the State till the end of 1952 for the said purpose and to how many of them lands have been allotted; and

(e) whether the Government of India have received any representation from the public for checking of the allotment of lands in the Town Fund area?