

## POPPY

**\*452. Shrimati Kamleudu Mati Shah:** Will the Minister of Finance be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to ban the cultivation of poppy in the areas where it is permitted now;

(b) if so, whether any time limit has been fixed; and

(c) whether Government are aware that poppy plant is an essential substitute for cereals which are difficult to grow in the hilly regions of Tehri-Garwal District?

**The Deputy Minister of Finance (Shri A. C. Guha):** (a) and (b). No, Sir. Government have no proposal to ban the cultivation of the poppy in the traditionally growing areas, but they have enforced an overall restriction of acreage during the current opium year, namely, 1-10-53 to 30-9-54, in view of the satisfactory stock position, the reduced domestic requirements and an anticipated fall in the export demand. Government have also a proposal to abolish, in the course of the next two years, the cultivation of the poppy for the extraction of opium in Himachal Pradesh where the yield is poor and control difficult. Similarly, where poppy is cultivated for seeds and not for extraction of opium as in certain districts of the Punjab, PEPSU and the Uttar Pradesh, poppy cultivation will be progressively reduced.

(c) The information at the disposal of Government does not support that it is difficult to grow cereals in Tehri-Garwal; Government are, however, aware that poppy heads are being used by the inhabitants of that area as an article of food. For this reason, it has been decided, in consultation with the Uttar Pradesh Government to continue the cultivation of poppy heads in Tehri-Garwal, although on a progressively diminishing scale for the next four years.

**Shri Sarangadhar Das:** In view of the fact that some years ago the Government had decided to reduce the

consumption of opium by 10 per cent. every year, may I know how it is going to be reduced if the poppy cultivation is not reduced?

**Shri A. C. Guha:** Sir according to International Convention we are going to stop the supply of opium to different States for oral consumption and that would be stopped in 1959. Accordingly, we are also reducing the acreage under poppy cultivation.

**Shri K. K. Basu:** May I know what percentage of this poppy production is consumed within the country and what percentage is exported?

**Shri A. C. Guha:** Sir, that information is not readily available with me now.

**Shri Radhelal Vyas:** May I know whether the yield in the Himachal Pradesh is really less or is it shown to be less because opium is smuggled out of that State?

**Shri A. C. Guha:** There is a little amount of smuggling in Himachal Pradesh.

## INCOME-TAX TRIBUNAL (PATNA BENCH)

**\*454. Shri Nageshwar Prasad Sinha:** (a) Will the Minister of Law be pleased to state whether there is a proposal to shift the Patna Bench of Income-Tax Appellate Tribunal?

(b) If so, to what place?

(c) Has the Bihar Chamber of Commerce submitted a representation protesting against the proposed shifting?

(d) What decision has been taken on their representation, if any?

**The Minister of Law and Minority Affairs (Shri Biswas):** (a) Yes.

(b) Calcutta.

(c) Yes.

(d) The matter is under consideration. No final decision has been taken so far.

**Shri Nageshwar Prasad Sinha:** May I know whether there was also a proposal to shift the Allahabad Bench