

Secret Service Branch and who first detected the difference between the shipping bills and the Export General Manifest was transferred for his pains?

Shri A. C. Guha: I should like to have notice for this. I can only give this assurance to the hon. Member that the amount involved in the transaction which he has referred to is only Rs. 6,000 compared to Rs. 16.42 crores paid by this company only on one item—import of petroleum in 1952-53. This amount of Rs. 6,000 must be considered very insignificant and the Company has also agreed that there was some error on the part of its officers and has agreed to pay this amount.

Shri H. N. Mukerjee: May I know if the Customs Secret Service Branch made an enquiry which elicited serious findings regarding high-ranking officers in relation to this company and also that the money involved was in the neighbourhood of Rs. 15 lakhs?

Shri A. C. Guha: The money involved was not only on this transaction but on other cases also. I have placed a statement. The money involved is now Rs. 5 lakhs.

Shri H. N. Mukerjee: What about the enquiry? Will the results be placed on the Table of the House?

Shri A. C. Guha: I do not know to what particular enquiry the hon. Member refers. If he kindly gives details, I will see what can be done.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: The enquiry by the secret police, that is what the hon. Member refers to.

Shri A. C. Guha: I am afraid the secret police investigation report cannot be placed on the Table of the House.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: Regarding the next question, I have received intimation that the hon. Member would like it to be put by some other Member. I will come to that question at the end.

EX-CRIMINAL TRIBES AND BACKWARD CLASSES WELFARE FUND

*1373. **Shri Raghuramaiah:** Will the Minister of Home Affairs be pleased to State:

(a) whether any amounts have been allotted to the Andhra State from (i) the Ex-Criminal Tribes Welfare Fund; (ii) the Fund for the Welfare of other Backward Classes, for the current year; and

(b) if so, the total amount so allotted?

The Deputy Minister of Home Affairs (Shri Datar): (a) and (b). Yes; (i) Rs. 1,50,000 for the welfare of Ex-Criminal Tribes and (ii) Rs. 50,000 for the welfare of other Backward Classes. Since, however, the Schemes pertaining to the welfare of Ex-Criminal Tribes were received very late in the year from the State Government, only a sum of Rs. 10,300 could be sanctioned. The Schemes relating to other Backward Classes have not been received so far. No funds have, therefore, been sanctioned

Shri Muniswamy: May I know whether unofficial bodies have been recognised by Government for disbursement of these amounts?

Shri Datar: That is for the State Government to do. We have suggested to them that as far as possible the work should be carried on by non-official agents.

Shri Velayudhan: May I know whether the Central Government is directly spending any amounts for the backward classes' organisations?

Shri Datar: So far as the Central Government is concerned, it had set apart Rs. 20 lakhs for the backward classes, and a very large proportion of the amount has already been spent.

Shrimati Kamlendu Mati Shah: May I know what amount has been set apart for the hill tribes or backward classes of the U.P.?

Shri Datar: So far as the hill tribes are concerned, they would either come under Scheduled Tribes or backward

classes and it is for the U.P. Government to settle that question.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: From Andhra the question seems to shift to the U.P.!

Shri B. S. Murthy: Now that the Central Government has nothing to do with private agencies carrying on reclamation work of the ex-Criminal Tribes, what steps do the Central Government propose to take, if, for instance, a State does not take interest in the welfare of the Tribes, like the Andhra State which has refused to take such interest?

Shri Datar: It is a State which has recently come into existence and it is quite likely that in the next year they would recognise private agencies for the purpose, but if they do not do, then we shall consider the question and recognise some all-India association for the purpose.

Shri Nanadas: In view of the fact that the Andhra State has come into existence only on the 1st October, may I know whether these funds sanctioned would be added on to the next year's budget?

Shri Datar: We have got separate funds for next year, but our difficulty is that all the money is not properly taken possession of by the State Government and they do not send in their schemes in time.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: The hon. Member wants to know if the amount that is not spent out of the allotted amount by the Andhra State will be allowed to be carried over by them for this purpose next year.

Shri Datar: Technically, the amount will not be carried over, it will lapse. The question will, however, be taken into account in the next year's budget allotment.

FLAG DAY FUND

*1374. **Dr. Natabar Pandey:** Will the Minister of Defence be pleased to state:

(a) whether the amount collected on Flag Day in 1952 has been duly spent; and

(b) if so, what amount was utilised for the benefit of ex-servicemen and on amenities for serving personnel?

The Deputy Minister of Defence (Sardar Majithia): (a) The 1952 collections have been disbursed, and will be spent in the course of this year.

(b) Rs. 5,45,186 have been earmarked for the benefit of ex-servicemen, and Rs. 1,98,000 for serving personnel.

GOLD PRICES

*1375. **Shri P. C. Bose:** Will the Minister of Finance be pleased to refer to the answer to starred question No. 885 asked on the 10th March, 1954 and state:

(a) the difference in the prices of gold in India and in the foreign-occupied territories in India; and

(b) the international price of gold as compared with that in India?

The Deputy Minister of Finance (Shri A. C. Guha): (a) A statement giving the latest available price of gold in India and foreign occupied territories in India is laid on the Table. [See Appendix IV, annexure No. 93.]

(b) The international official price of gold is \$35 an ounce equal to Rs. 62/8/- per tola.

Shri P. C. Bose: I find from the statement that the difference in the price of gold as between the foreign possessions in India like Goa etc., and the Indian cities like Bombay and Calcutta is about Rs. 16 per tola. Has any enquiry been held by the Government of India why so much difference exists?

Shri A. C. Guha: This difference of Rs. 16 exists only in the case of Goa. In the French possessions the price is almost the same—in fact it is higher in the case of Pondicherry. The prevailing prices are: Bombay Rs. 88/12/-; Calcutta Rs. 89; Pondicherry Rs. 92/8; Karaikal Rs. 89; Mahe Rs. 89/8. I do not know what enquiry Government can make in this matter.