

(b) If so, what are the results of the review and what steps have Government already taken or propose to take in the matter?

**The Minister of State for Finance (Shri Tyagi):** (a) The review of tobacco ranges in all Central Excise Collectorates has not yet been completed. But steps have already been taken in some Collectorates to reduce the staff on a preliminary survey of un-economic ranges. Periodical reviews are conducted with a view to employing only the minimum staff required to the maximum advantage.

(b) The result of the preliminary review already made in respect of some Collectorates is a saving of 5.63 lakhs a year. The review will be continued in respect of other Collectorates with a view to effecting economy to the maximum extent possible.

**Shri S. C. Samanta:** May I know, Sir, which of the ranges are being reviewed up till now?

**Shri Tyagi:** Allahabad, Calcutta, Delhi, Shillong, Jamnagar, Madras and Bombay have had the review and the staff had been ordered to be reduced only in Allahabad, Calcutta (including Patna) and Delhi.

**Shri S. C. Samanta:** The hon. Minister said that the staff was reduced. May I know whether it is on account of uneconomic ranges, and whether they will be abolished or not?

**Shri Tyagi:** There are tobacco ranges where tobacco cultivation is very sparse and at long distances it is not economical to keep regular staff in that vast area when there is not much of revenue and, therefore, it was decided to take an over-all review of these ranges and after the result of this review had been received, it was decided that those ranges might be struck off the register.

#### CANTEEN STORES DEPARTMENT

\*557. **Shri S. C. Samanta:** Will the Minister of Defence be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the retail sale section of the Canteen Stores Department (India) has been taken over by the Units;

(b) if so, what advantages have been secured by this change-over; and

(c) the value of articles imported for Canteen Stores Department (India) in the years 1950-51 and 1951-52 respectively?

**The Minister of Defence (Shri Gopalaswami):** (a) The retail sales of canteen stores to military personnel will be gradually taken over from contractors by units and/or the Canteen Stores Department as soon as practicable.

(b) The changeover would result in—

(i) avoiding the middleman's profit and providing canteen goods to troops at cheaper rates;

(ii) ensuring more efficient canteen services; and

(iii) providing additional amenities for troops from the increased profits that would thus accrue.

(c) The value of imported articles from foreign countries was Rs. 51.58 lakhs in 1950-51 out of a total purchase of Rs. 195.15 lakhs and Rs. 96.77 lakhs in 1951-52; out of Rs. 298.93 lakhs.

**Shri S. C. Samanta:** May I know, Sir, whether the articles used in canteens are being imported by the Ministerial department or the canteen owners are allowed to import them?

**Shri Gopalaswami:** Sir, I think some facilities are given by the department for making these purchases.

**Shri S. C. Samanta:** May I know, Sir, what steps have been taken by the Ministry to encourage indigenous articles?

**Shri Gopalaswami:** The policy of the department is to encourage the larger use of indigenous articles. As a matter of fact, the percentage of commodities imported from foreign countries for all the canteens put together is now 32.4 against 45 in 1949 and 25.9 in 1948. The number of indigenous articles in 1949 was 678 against a total of 1138, giving a percentage of 59.6. In 1950 it was 1614 against a total of 2039, a percentage of 79.2. In 1951 indigenous articles totalled 2006 against a grand total of 2431, giving a percentage of 82.5.

**Shri Dhulekar:** Has any estimate been made about the additional expenditure which is necessary for catering purposes, when the canteens are taken over by the units?

**Shri Gopalaswami:** The canteens are run on a profit basis. Annually we realise considerable profits out of the running of these canteens.

**Shri Velayudhan:** What is the assessed book value of the stores which

India inherited after the war and the sale proceeds later on either in retail or wholesale prices?

**Shri Gopaldaswami:** I can give the purchases from 1948-49 onwards. I am afraid I have not got the figure of the value of what was in stock at that time.

**Shri Badshah Gupta:** What are the main articles of import? Are they available in India or not?

**Shri Gopaldaswami:** As I said the articles are of a great variety. The number of items was something like 2,431. Most of the grocery articles and various other things required by the troops are now purchased in India. 2,006 out of 2,431 articles are purchased in India.

#### LIQUIDATION OF BANKS

\*558. **Shri A. C. Guha:** Will the Minister of Finance be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have taken any decision regarding the appointment of a Committee for amending the procedure for the liquidation of Banks; and

(b) if so, the personnel and the terms of reference, of that Committee?

**The Minister of Finance (Shri C. D. Deshmukh):** (a) and (b). The attention of the hon. Member is drawn to the reply given by me to his last supplementary question asked in connection with his starred question No. 80 on the 21st May 1952.

**Shri A. C. Guha:** Since then has not the hon. Minister anything more to add?

**Shri C. D. Deshmukh:** Except that the scope, personnel and terms of reference of the proposed Committee are expected to be finalised very shortly.

**Shri A. C. Guha:** May I know if the terms of reference will also include looking into any acts of *mala fide* or misfeasance on the part of the ex-managing directors and tracing their share of responsibility for the failure of the bank?

**Shri C. D. Deshmukh:** No, Sir. The tentative terms of reference which I have here do not include that particular term, because this is more of a procedural matter.

**Shri A. C. Guha:** Will it also include anything about economising the legal cost of the liquidators?

**Mr. Speaker:** He is anticipating...

**Shri A. C. Guha:** I only want to know what would be the terms of reference.

**Shri C. D. Deshmukh:** He is indirectly making suggestions.

**Mr. Speaker:** That is a better form of putting the implication of his question.

**Shri Nambiar:** What further steps have been taken to inquire into the large number of liquidation of banks? On a previous reference to this matter the hon. Minister promised that something will be done. May I know if anything has been done?

**Shri C. D. Deshmukh:** Whenever a scheduled bank goes into liquidation usually there is an enquiry made by the Reserve Bank and indeed the affairs of such a bank are likely to be under observation for some time even before liquidation and it is as a result of this large number of failures that we are now considering the question of the appointment of a committee.

**Shri A. C. Guha:** The hon. Minister spoke of tentative terms of reference: may I know what they are?

**Shri C. D. Deshmukh:** I do not see any advantage in giving out what we are considering in a departmental way, so to speak, that is to say, before we have finally made up our mind as to the precise terms of reference. If the hon. Member will hold his soul in patience for a little longer he will have the final terms of reference.

**Shri A. C. Guha:** I have been holding it for the last three years.

**Mr. Speaker:** Next question.

#### SULPHUR

\*559. **Dr. M. M. Das:** Will the Minister of Natural Resources and Scientific Research be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have carried out any survey for the location of Sulphur containing material other than gypsum;

(b) if so, what is the result of such a survey;

(c) whether any experiment has been carried out for the commercial extraction of Sulphur from Pyrites; and

(d) if so, what is the result of the experiment?

**The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Education and Natural Resources and Scientific Research (Shri K. D. Malaviya):** (a) to (d). A