

The Minister of Revenue and Defence Expenditure (Shri A. C. Guha) (a) The number of watches seized during the period from 1st October, 1954 to 30th June, 1955 was 7,670.

(b) These watches were imported from almost all parts of the world, particularly from Singapore and Hongkong, the Portuguese and the then former French Possessions in India, the Persian Gulf area, the U.K. and the Straits Settlements.

(c) The indications are that smuggling of watches from Pakistan is on the decline.

(d) This does not arise.

Sardar Iqbal Singh : May I know whether the Government is aware of the fact that many passengers who go by the air services or by sea carry old watches or go without watches but while they are returning they carry new watches and whether it is lawful or smuggling?

Shri A. C. Guha : Anyone coming after some foreign tour to India is entitled to have a certain amount of personal baggage and within that quantity or amount he can bring one or two watches or things like that.

Shri Syamnandan Sahaya : May I know what happened to these 7000 watches which were seized?

Shri A. C. Guha : I have not got the complete break-up here but most of them were confiscated.

Shri Syamnandan Sahaya : And, then?

Shri A. C. Guha : In certain cases we released them on the payment of some fine mostly more than or equal to the price of the watches.

Shri A. M. Thomas : May I enquire whether the number just now disclosed by the hon. Minister represents only the number of watches seized in the act of smuggling or also the watches taken custody of from shops and other places?

Shri A. C. Guha : This number represents the watches seized in the act of smuggling at land customs area, airport and sea-port.

Procurement Staff

*1141. **Shri Biren Dutt** : Will the Minister of Home Affairs be pleased to state:

(a) whether the retrenched staff of the Procurement Department of the Government of Tripura has been absorbed;

(b) how many of them still remain unabsorbed; and

(c) what are the difficulties in the way of absorbing them?

The Deputy Minister of Home Affairs (Shri Datar) (a) One third has already been absorbed.

(b) 140.

(c)(i) Absence of requisite qualification for available vacancies in certain cases;

(ii) Unsatisfactory past service;

(iii) Absence of a requisite physical standard for absorption in Police service; and

(iv) Absence of adequate alternate vacancies.

Shri Biren Dutt : May I know whether 314 posts requiring the same qualifications as these retrenched persons possess have been filled up in various departments?

Shri Datar : I ask for notice to give this information.

Shri Biren Dutt : Will the hon. Minister consider the question of giving any interim relief to those who are qualified to be absorbed but are not yet absorbed?

Shri Datar : The Government are trying their best to absorb as many qualified people as possible.

Mr. Speaker : Shri Raghbir Sahai.

Shri Lakshmayya : Question No. 1144. Sir, I have been authorised to put this question.

Mr. Speaker : That is all right. If he has been authorised he knows the practice that such questions are taken up only at the end when the whole question list is over and there is time left.

Scheduled Tribes

*1145. **Shri Deogam** : Will the Minister of Home Affairs be pleased to state :

(a) the amount spent during 1954-55 on the execution of development schemes in Binar for the welfare of Scheduled Tribes out of the Central Grant-in-aid sanctioned for the purpose;

(b) whether any portion of the amount lapsed; and

(c) if so, the reasons therefor?

The Deputy Minister of Home Affairs (Shri Datar) (a) to (c). The information is being collected and will be placed on the Table of the House in due course.

Shri Thimmaiah : Will the hon. Minister be pleased to state the amount unspent during last year from the amount allotted for the uplift of the Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribes ?

Shri Datar : That itself is the information which is called for from the Bihar Government.

Tobacco Excise Duty

*1146. **Shri Sanganna :** Will the Minister of Finance be pleased to state:

(a) whether any concessions have been announced in the matter of Tobacco Excise Duty since January 1954; and

(b) if so, the nature of these concessions ?

The Minister of Revenue and Defence Expenditure (Shri A.C. Guha) : (a) and (b). Yes, Sir. A statement giving the required information is placed on the Table of the House. [See Appendix VI, annexure No. 63].

Shri Sanganna : May I know what are the factors necessitating the declaration of concession and the extent of concession given to the Orissa State ?

Shri A.C. Guha : The primary factor is the huge accumulation of tobacco due to two reasons: over production and also there is a sort of international slump or glut in the tobacco market due to which our export of tobacco has gone down. The quantum of relief given on the first occasion—10th April, 1954—would amount to Rs. 1 crore, on the second occasion to Rs. 50 lakhs and on the third occasion, i.e. 28th July, 1955, to Rs. 1,70,00,000. The total relief given would amount to Rs. 3,20,00,000. But the loss of revenue can be estimated only on the assumption that all the tobacco would have been sold at the rate fixed and for the purpose for which the duty on this tobacco was put. But, the position was, most of this tobacco would not have been sold and so the duty might not have been realised. Therefore, one cannot say there was any actual loss of revenue.

Shri Sanganna : In paragraph 28 of Chapter V given in volume 2 of the Taxation Enquiry Commission's Report a recommendation has been made by the Commission for the appointment of an expert committee to go into the question of tobacco taxation policy fully. May I know what action has been taken by the Government so far ?

Shri A. C. Guha : We are considering the proposal and I can say that tentatively we have decided to set up a committee and we are now going to select the personnel as also fix up the terms of reference.

Shri N. B. Chowdhury : The hon. Minister has stated that some relief in respect of taxation was given in view of the accumulated stock. In view of the fact that our agreement with China in regard to this commodity helped us to clear this accumulated stock will the Government consider the desirability of having a long-term trade agreement with that country in order to clear our stocks due to over-production in this country ?

Shri A. C. Guha : Which country ?

Mr. Speaker : China.

Shri A. C. Guha : We are always eager to have trade agreements with any country in the world.

Shri N. B. Chowdhury : I mean long-term agreements.

Shri A. C. Guha : I also mean long-term agreements provided that country also agrees.

Shri Raghavaiah : May I know whether the Government is aware of the fact that tobacco users in South India have filed cases relating to the taxation of tobacco that is reserved for their family consumption ?

Shri A. C. Guha : Generally, for family consumption a certain amount of tobacco is exempted from taxation. There may be some stray cases where some families may feel aggrieved. Whenever those cases are received by us we institute an enquiry and necessary relief is given.

विदेशी पत्रमुद्रा और सिक्के

*११४७. श्री के० सी० सोबिया : क्या वित्त मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) १९५४-५५ में विदेशों से उनकी पत्रमुद्रायें छापने और उनके सिक्के ढालने के लिये सरकार को कितने घाड़र प्राप्त हुये हैं; और

(ख) इन घाड़रों के पूरा होने पर कितनी भाय होने की सम्भावना है ?

राजस्व और रक्षा व्यय मंत्री (श्री ए० सी० गुहा) : (क) १९५४-५५ में सिक्के ढालने के दो घाड़र और नोट छापने का एक घाड़र मिला है।