

there has been increase in the population of any particular community.

Branches of State Bank of India

1576. Shri Gauri Shankar: Will the Minister of Finance be pleased to state:

(a) how many branches of State Bank were opened in the country during the Plan periods;

(b) whether these branches are running in loss or on profit; and

(c) if in loss, how long will such branches continue?

The Minister of Finance (Shri Morarji Desai): (a) Since its constitution on the 1st July, 1955, the State Bank of India has opened 453 branches upto the 31st March, 1962.

(b) A few branches are working at a profit and others at a loss.

(c) It is not the intention of the State Bank to close the branches which happen to be working at a loss for the time being, but every effort is being made to put them on a self-supporting basis.

Indian Defence Personnel killed Abroad

1577. Shri Gauri Shankar: Will the Minister of Defence be pleased to state:

(a) how many Indian Defence personnel have been killed in connection with peace missions abroad since 15th August, 1947; and

(b) what provisions were made to the family members of such deceased defence personnel?

The Minister of Defence (Shri Krishna Menon): (a) The number of Indian Defence personnel killed in action in connection with peace missions abroad since 15th August, 1947 is 15. All these casualties have been in the Congo.

(b) Attention is invited to part (c) of the reply to Question No. 77 answered

in the Lok Sabha on 23rd April, 1962.

Unauthorised Construction at Port Blair

1578. Shri A. S. Saigal: Will the Minister of Home Affairs be pleased to refer to the reply given to Unstarred Question No. 2198 on the 6th September, 1960 and state what action Government finally took against the firm for unauthorised construction of the jetty at Dundas Point, Port Blair?

The Minister of State in the Ministry of Home Affairs (Shri Datar): The question of recovery of a suitable rent from the firm for the use of the Jetty is under consideration of the Andaman Administration.

Copra and Betelnuts Trade in Nicobar

1579. Shri A. S. Saigal: Will the Minister of Home Affairs be pleased to refer to the reply given to Unstarred question No. 2196 on the 6th September, 1960 and state:

(a) whether the five firms sell Copra and betelnuts of Car Nicobar Trading Co. and Nancowrie Trading Co. by inviting tenders, open auction or by private negotiations; and

(b) what effective and concrete steps Government have taken to ensure that these firms do not manipulate or suppress the sale proceeds to the financial detriment of the Nicobarese whose economic interest Government have to safeguard under provisions of the Andaman and Nicobar Islands (Protection of Aboriginal Tribes) Regulation and of the Trading licences issued under the Regulation?

The Minister of State in the Ministry of Home Affairs (Shri Datar): (a) It is reported that the five firms sell copra and betelnuts of Car Nicobar Trading Company and Nancowrie Trading Company in open market to party offering highest rates, either