

Foreign Exchange Seized in Bombay

- 1177 Shri Ram Kishan Gupta:
 Shri Hukam Chand Kachwal:
 Shri Jagannath Rao Joshi:
 Shri Mohammad Ismail:
 Shri B. K. Modak:
 Shri Ganesh Ghosh:
 Shri Bhagaban Das:
 Shri Umanath:
 Shri Ram Sewak Yadav:
 Shri Maharaaj Singh Bharti:
 Shri George Fernandes:
 Shri K. N. Pandey:
 Shri A. B. Vajpayee:
 Shri Kanwar Lal Gupta:
 Shri Y. A. Prasad:
 Shri N. K. Sanghi:
 Shri Bodabrata Barua:

Will the Minister of Finance be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that foreign exchange of huge value was seized on the 30th April, 1967 at Bombay by the officers of the Preventive and Marine Division of the Central Excise;

(b) if so, the nature of the articles seized; and "

(c) the action taken by Government in the matter?

The Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Finance (Shri Morarji Desai): (a) and (b). On 30th April, 1967 the following instruments of foreign exchange were seized in Bombay by the Central Excise officers:—

- (i) British Postal Orders valued at £ 2,996-0-6
- (ii) Travellers' Cheques valued at £ 30,100-0-0
- (iii) Bank Drafts valued at £ 15,900-9-7
- (iv) U.S. Travellers' Cheques valued at \$ 41,000.00
- (v) U.S. Bank Drafts valued at \$ 14,001.09

At the official exchange rates, the value of the instruments of foreign exchange seized is about Rs. 14.41, 430)---

(c) The instruments of foreign exchange seized have been confiscated under the Customs Act, 1962. Further investigations under the Foreign Exchange Regulation Act are in progress.

Lead Poisoning

1178. Shri C. K. Bhattacharyya:
 Shri Baburno Patel:

Will the Minister of Health and Family Planning be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to a statement by Dr. D. P. Banerjee, Medical Inspector of Factories, Bihar, "that the incidence of lead poisoning and other diseases arising out of the use of lead in industries are increasing alarmingly"; and

(b) if so, the precautionary measures proposed to be taken in the matter?

The Minister of Health and Family Planning (Dr. S. Chandrasekhar) (a) At a symposium on "Lead Hazards in Industries" organised at Jamshedpur on the 27th and 28th April, 1967, by the Bihar Factories Inspectorate and the Tata Iron & Steel Company Ltd, Jamshedpur, Dr. D. P. Banerjee had stated that "Lead poisoning in different lead processes is quite high in Indian factories". However, in a study carried out by the Central Labour Institute no clinical case of lead poisoning was traced, though the workers were exposed to very large concentrations of lead.

(b) Necessary provisions already exist in the Factories Act and Rules and constant and strict vigilance is maintained to ensure that the rules are followed by the employers and the employees. Additionally, seminars and symposia are organised periodically to create consciousness of possible health hazards from lead and other toxic substances in industries and the need to adopt preventive measures. The recommendations made at these seminars and synopsals are effectively followed.