

(c) As a result of the raid the following goods were seized :—

- (i) 7 transistor radios and 3 tape-recorders valued at about Rs. 7000/-;
- (ii) 200 U.S. Dollars;
- (iii) 2 notes of the Bank of Jamaica of One pound each;
- (iv) 7 Broad-cast Receiving licences;
- (v) 2 Locker-keys.

(d) The matter is still under investigation.

#### FOREIGN EXCHANGE TO PERSONS GOING ABROAD

820. SHRI MADHU LIMAYE : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is the policy of Government to sanction foreign exchange or 'P' form to Indian citizens wanting to go abroad to meet their friends and/or to have a medical check-up;

(b) whether 'P' forms are granted to people who in their applications or letters assure Government that such and such a friend of theirs abroad is prepared to meet the expenses likely to be incurred on such a trip;

(c) whether it is a violation of the Foreign Exchange Regulations if the person who was supposed to meet the expenses of the foreign trip of Indian citizens is eventually not able to do so and the expenses are stated to have been borne by another individual;

(d) whether Government's attention has been drawn to violations or breach of promises of the type mentioned above in the last two years ending October, 1967; and

(e) if so, the action taken in these cases against the citizens concerned ?

THE DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER AND MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI MORARJI DESAI) : (a) and (b). Under current regulations foreign exchange or 'P' form will not be granted just to visit friends. The rules provide for the release of foreign exchange for medical treatment

abroad. Where under rules a person is eligible for foreign exchange release for medical treatment or check-up, 'P' form may be allowed on the basis of financing of expenses by friend/s abroad.

(c) Facts relating to each case will have to be considered before a view regarding violation of regulations could be taken. *Prima facie* there would be no violation if the new host is also within the approved category or when the visit abroad is on grounds for which Reserve Bank would have even otherwise released foreign exchange.

(d) and (e). Cases involving violations, if any, will be pursued by the Director of Enforcement.

#### ROYALTY ON CRUDE OIL

821. SHRI R. S. ARUMUGAM : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM and CHEMICALS be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that the Governments of Assam and Gujarat have requested the Central Government to revise the royalty rates on crude oil; and

(b) if so, the reaction of Government thereto ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS AND OF SOCIAL WELFARE (SHRI RAGHU RAMALAH) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The matter is under the consideration of the Government.

#### FERTILIZER PLANT IN MAHARASHTRA WITH JAPANESE ASSISTANCE

822. SHRI R. S. ARUMUGAM :  
SHRI KAMESHWAR SINGH :  
SHRI S. M. JOSHI :

Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that the Japanese Firm M/s Tokyo Engineering Corporation, has agreed to set up a fertilizer factory in Maharashtra based on Naphtha available in the country; and

(b) if so, the terms of collaboration ?

**THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS AND OF SOCIAL WELFARE (SHRI RAGHU RAMAIAH) :** (a)

There is a proposal for setting up a soda ash/ammonium chloride plant, based on naphtha, by the Maharashtra Cooperative Fertilizers and Chemicals Ltd. with the collaboration of certain Japanese firms (not Toyo Engineering Corporation). No other proposal is under consideration.

(b) The terms of collaboration are yet to be settled and detailed proposals are awaited from the Maharashtra Cooperative Fertilizers and Chemicals Ltd.

**EXTERNAL PUBLIC DEBT**

**823. SHRI PARTHASARATHY :  
SHRI M. MEGHACHANDRA :**

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) The India's external public debt to-date;

(b) how much of the export earnings are used for debt servicing; and

(c) by what percentage India's external public debt is going up by adding payments on account of amortisation and interest ?

**THE DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER AND MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI MORARI DESAI) :** (a) India's External Public Debt stood at Rs. 4005.05 crores as on the 31st July, 1967;

(b) Repayment of principal and payment of interest and service charges in respect of external public debt are a first charge on the export earnings. Export earnings and payments in respect of external public debt during the last two years were as under :—

	Export earnings (Rs. Crores)	Payments under foreign debt (Rs. Crores)
1965-66	1275.1	216.5
1966-67	1168.3	240.8

(c) During the last five years the outstanding public debt, the payments of principal and service charge and the percentage

such payments bear to the outstanding debt were as under :—

Outstanding external public debt at the end of the year (Rs. Crores)	Payments of principal, interest & service charges during the year (Rs. Crores)	Percentage of (2) to (1)	
(1)	(2)	(3)	
1962-63	1798.6	148.3	8.2
1963-64	2254.6	152.3	6.7
1964-65	2789.8	216.5	7.8
1965-66	3374.1	216.5	6.4
1966-67	3819.6	240.8	6.3

**NOTE :** The figures relating to external debt and payments exclude those under P.L. 480 programme. All figures are at post-devaluation rates of conversion.

**EXPLORATION OF GAS IN KASHMIR VALLEY**

**824. SHRI R. S. ARUMUGAM :** Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that Kashmir valley has vast natural gas resources and the State Government is keen for their exploitation;

(b) whether it is also a fact that the Natural Oil and Gas Commission have undertaken any project there so far; and

(c) if so, the reasons therefor ?

**THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS AND OF SOCIAL WELFARE (SHRI RAGHU RAMAIAH) :** (a) On the basis of information available so far, it cannot be said that the Kashmir Valley has vast natural gas resources. The State Government is keen to have the valley explored for natural gas deposits.

(b) and (c). Nine shallow wells have been drilled by the O.N.G.C. in the Valley but no sizeable pocket of gas has been found which can be commercially exploited. It is proposed to conduct seismic surveys in 1968 to gather more data.