

has yet to settle the accounts. Information regarding foreign exchange earnings will become available after the accounts are settled.

FAIR PRICE SHOPS IN ANDAMANS

5156. SHRI K. R. GANESH : Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) the number of Fair Price Shops opened by the Andaman and Nicobar Administration in the Andaman group;

(b) whether any Fair Price Shops have been opened in large compact labour areas; and

(c) if not, the reasons for the same ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI VIDYA CHARAN SHUKLA) : (a) to (c). Seventy-six fair price shops have been opened by Andaman and Nicobar Administration in the Andaman group of Islands keeping in view the needs of people, including labourers, in various localities. 26 of these fair shops are functioning in areas where labourers are concentrate in large numbers.

FAIR PRICE SHOPS IN NICOBAR

5157. SHRI AMRIT NAHATA : Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) the number of fair price shops opened by the Andaman Administration in the Nicobar group;

(b) the total population of the area in which such shops have been opened;

(c) whether commodities are sold in Government Fair Price Shops at lesser rates than in the Nancowry Trading Company;

(d) whether under Andaman Nicobar Tribal Protection Regulations Government was required to fix prices in Nicobar group; and

(e) the reasons for the failure to fix prices ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI VIDYA CHARAN SHUKLA) : (a) and (b). Civil Supply Stores were opened by the Andaman and Nicobar Administration at the following places and the total

population of these places, according to the 1961 census, is indicated against them :

<i>Name of the place</i>	<i>Population</i>
Car Nicobar	9879
West Bay Katchal	} 904
East Bay Katchal	
Teressa	547
Kondul	82
Pilomillo	40
Campbell Bay (Gr. Nicobar)	203
Camorta	795
Kapanga	107

One store was opened at each of the places mentioned above.

The Civil Supply Store at Kapanga was opened temporarily on 10-10-67 and was closed when the regular store was opened at East Bay Katchal.

Except the stores at Car Nicobar and Camorta all other stores have since been closed in compliance with the orders of the Calcutta High Court.

(c) Commodities at these stores were sold at rates worked out on 'no profit, no loss' basis and the rates charged by the Nancowry Trading Company were generally higher. However, the rates for controlled commodities like atta, rice and sugar were the same.

(d) In accordance with the terms of the licence for trade issued under the Andaman and Nicobar Islands (Protection of Aboriginal Tribes) Regulation, 1956, the Chief Commissioner or an officer so authorised by him fixes the maximum retail sale price of the commodities sold. There is no bar to licensee selling commodities at rates lower than the maximum fixed.

(e) Maximum retail prices are being fixed as per the rules.

WRIT PETITIONS AGAINST ANDAMAN ADMINISTRATION

5158. SHRI AMRIT NAHATA : Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state the number of writ petitions filed in the Calcutta High Court in the years 1963—67, year-wise against Andaman and Nicobar Administration ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI VIDYA CHARAN SHUKLA) : The number of writ petitions filed in the Calcutta High Court against the Andaman and Nicobar Administration so far since 1963 is as follows :

Year	Number
1963	1
1964	2
1965	2
1966	6
1967	8 (upto 13th Dec. 1967).

LANDING CHARGES ON PASSENGERS TRAVELLING IN ANDAMAN VESSELS

5159. SHRI K. R. GANESH : Will the Minister of TRANSPORT AND SHIPPING be pleased to state :

(a) whether any landing charges are levied on passengers travelling in the Andaman vessels for landing in the Nicobar group ports;

(b) if so, the reasons thereof; and

(c) whether it is not the responsibility of the shipping department to land passengers ashore ?

if MINISTER OF TRANSPORT AND SHIPPING (DR. V. K. R. V. RAO) : (a) to (c). Information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the Sabha.

INTERNATIONAL HOCKEY FESTIVAL AT LAHORE

5160. SHRI K. P. SINGH DEO : Will the Minister of EDUCATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that India has agreed to participate in the forthcoming International Hockey Festival at Lahore in Pakistan;

(b) whether it is also a fact that Pakistan has declined India's invitation to participate in the Hockey Festival to be held in India; and

(c) if so, the reasons for India's acceptance of Pakistan's invitation, when Pakistan declined India's invitation on a reciprocal visit ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EDUCATION (SHRI BHAGWAT JHA AZAD) : (a) to (c).

The Indian Hockey Federation have agreed to participate in the International Hockey Festival to be held in Pakistan during January 1968 subject to Pakistan agreeing to reciprocate by a visit to India and playing the same number of matches in India as India is expected to play in Pakistan. The Indian Hockey Federation, however, do not propose to hold any International Hockey Festival in India like the one being held in Pakistan.

INDIAN FOREST SERVICE

5161. SHRI A. S. KASTURE : Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) the number of State Forest Officers selected in the Indian Forest Service constituted with effect from 1st October, 1966;

(b) the number of State Forest Officers belonging to the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes selected in Indian Forest Service;

(c) whether these communities are adequately represented; and

(d) if not, what steps Government propose to take to increase the number of their members in the Indian Forest Service ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI VIDYA CHARAN SHUKLA) : (a) to (c). 703 State Forest Service Officers were adjudged suitable for appointment to the Indian Forest Service at its initial constitution with effect from 1-10-1966, including 9 Scheduled Castes and 8 Scheduled Tribes officers.

(d) For recruitment to the service through the competitive examination, the rules/regulations provide reservation for the Scheduled Castes/Tribes candidates. Moreover certain cases are being reviewed where the adverse remarks in the character rolls had either not been conveyed or the representations received against such remarks had remained pending.

LEAVE TRAVEL CONCESSION TO WORKERS IN ANDAMAN AND NICOBAR ISLANDS

5162. SHRI K. R. GANESH : Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) the total number of workers in the Andaman and Nicobar Islands entitled to Leave Travel Concession;