

[Translation]

Land Under Opium Cultivation

6068. SHRI KAMLA PRASAD RAWAT : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) the area of land in hectares under opium cultivation in the country and the area, out of it in Barabanki District of Uttar Pradesh;

(b) whether Government propose to open a factory for its processing to ensure production of good quality opium;

(c) if so, the time by which it would be set up; and

(d) if not, the reasons thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHAN POOJARY) : (a) The area under opium cultivation in the country and in Barabanki district of Uttar Pradesh during the crop year 1984-85 was about 25, 154 and 2,833 hectares, respectively.

(b) to (d). There is no such proposal as there are already two Government Opium Factories—one at Ghazipur in Uttar Pradesh and the other at Neemuch Madhya Pradesh—with an adequate capacity for processing opium.

[English]

Pending Adjudication Cases Relating to Goods Seized by Customs

6069. SHRI BHOLA NATH SEN : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the number of adjudication cases relating to seizure of goods by the Customs pending in the different Customs Collectorates, have increased during the past five years;

(b) if so, the details of cases pending adjudication in the different Customs

Collectorates as on 31st day of March, 1980, 1982, 1984 and 1985; and

(c) the steps taken to expedited disposal of such cases to prevent accumulation ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHAN POOJARY) : (a) to (c). The number of Customs seizure cases, pending adjudication in different customs Collectorates all over the country, as on 31st March, 1980, 1982, 1984 and 1985, is furnished below :—

Year	Number of adjudication cases pending as on 31st March
1980	5463
1982	5926
1984	8072
1985*	5839

*(Provisional)

The adjudication proceedings following seizure of cases, investigations, issue of show-cause notice, personal hearing, examination and cross-examination of witnesses, etc. culminating in passing of an order of adjudication, are quasi-judicial in character and necessarily involve time which varies depending on the promptness of the response of the charged party. Sometimes, such proceedings are held up for reasons beyond the control of the department when the parties involved obtain stay from Courts or deliberately delay the proceedings.

The machinery for adjudication has been further galvanised as part of a general drive. As a result, the pendency has considerably come down from 8072 as on 31st March, 1984 to 5839 as on 31st March, 1985 which amounts to only a little over two months' average receipt of fresh cases for adjudication in 1984.