

these derived from amongst their members, e.g. affiliation fees, entry fees, membership fees, etc.

(c) Whether the Cricket Association of Bengal has been charged to Income Tax during the last 8 years can be ascertained only from their assessment records, but disclosure of any such information is prohibited under Section 54 of the Income Tax Act.

ATOMIC ENERGY

*1313. **Shri M. L. Dwivedi:** Will the Minister of Natural Resources and Scientific Research be pleased to state:

(a) the places in India where deposits of Uranium, Thorium and other minerals used in the production of atomic energy are available;

(b) for how long have the Indian Atomic Energy Commission been at work;

(c) whether the Commission have been able to find out ways and means of harnessing atomic energy for industrial and commercial purposes; and

(d) if so, what are the details, if any?

The Minister of Education and Natural Resources and Scientific Research (Maulana Azad): (a) Thorium is contained in the monazite sands which are found on the West and East coast of India. Uranium is found in Bihar and other places in India. It is not in the public interest to disclose the exact localities where these are found.

(b) The Indian Atomic Energy Commission was set up in August 1948.

(c) and (d). Atomic energy has not been harnessed for the generation of industrial power in any country yet, but atomic-powered plants for ships and submarines are likely to be available soon. Atomic power for industrial purposes may be available within a decade. The Indian Atomic Energy Commission has put up proposals to the Government for setting up an atomic reactor in India.

SECRETARIAT PROCEDURE MANUAL

*1314. **Shri M. L. Dwivedi:** (a) Will the Minister of Finance be pleased to state what are the main changes introduced in the Ministry of Finance in the procedure for the disposal of work at various levels in a speedy, efficient, and business like manner?

(b) Have they been incorporated in the Manual of Procedure for the Central Secretariat?

(c) Have these changes been enforced in other Ministries as well?

(d) Will a copy of the revised manual be placed on the Table of the House?

The Minister of State for Finance (Shri Tyagi): (a) The main changes are:—

(i) The dak, immediately on its receipt, is seen by the officers concerned who dispose of as many cases as they can at that stage and also give necessary instructions as regards the manner in which other cases should be dealt with;

(ii) In addition to their supervisory functions, the Superintendents (Section Officers) are required to deal with certain types of cases themselves;

(iii) Selected Assistants in each Section have been allowed to submit their work direct to Branch Officers concerned, instead of through the Section Officers;

(iv) Elimination of unnecessary noting by office Assistants.

(b) Yes.

(c) So far as I am aware, the main provisions in this regard are being generally followed in other Ministries.

(d) Yes, as soon as the Manual has been finalised and printed.

JUNIOR COMMISSIONED OFFICERS

*1315. **Shri Veeraswamy:** Will the Minister of Defence be pleased to state whether there is a proposal before the Ministry of Defence to abolish the cadre of Junior Commissioned Officers and to introduce the cadre of warrant officers instead?

The Minister of Defence (Shri Gopaldaswami): No, Sir.

CONSUMPTION OF OPIUM

*286. **Shri Krishna Chandra:** Will the Minister of Finance be pleased to state:

(a) the names of States where consumption of opium is in excess of the prescribed standards;

(b) whether these States have agreed to gradually cut down their requirements in order to come up to the prescribed standards; and

(c) if so, by what date?

The Minister of State for Finance (Shri Tyagi): (a) There are no prescribed standards for consumption of

opium except such as those laid down by the individual State Governments under their own excise and prohibition regulations, for users within their respective territories. Particulars are not available at the Centre.

(b) At the All-India Opium Conference, 1949, all the then Provinces and States agreed to the total elimination of the oral consumption of opium (i.e. consumption for purposes other than medical and scientific) by the end of March 1959 at the latest. Accordingly, with effect from 1949, supplies by the Government of India of opium to each individual State are being progressively reduced by 10 per cent. annually.

(c) By March 1959, supplies of opium to each State are expected to be reduced to nil. In 'Prohibition' States (e.g. Bombay, Madras and Assam) the non-medical consumption of opium is expected to be totally eliminated even earlier.

DEFENCE STORES IMPREST

287. **Shri M. L. Dwivedi:** Will the Minister of Defence be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have accepted the suggestion of the audit authorities for the restriction of the amount of imprest on the basis of actual immediate requirements;

(b) whether periodical verification of balance is being made by the officers of the Military Accounts Department; and

(c) if the answer to parts (a) and (b) above be in the affirmative, whether these have been brought into actual practice?

The Minister of Defence (Shri Gopalaswami): (a) to (c). Yes, except that in the case of the Army the question in regard to periodical verification of balance is under active consideration.

CONTROL OVER EXPENDITURE

288. **Shri M. L. Dwivedi:** Will the Minister of Finance be pleased to state:

(a) whether necessary rules and regulations to ensure that spending Ministries exercise proper checks and show complete responsibility in the matter of budgeting and keeping control over expenditure, have been framed;

(b) if so, when were these rules enforced or are likely to be enforced; and

(c) whether a copy thereof can be placed on the Table of the House?

The Minister of State for Finance (Shri Tyagi): (a) to (c). I would invite attention to the reply given to Unstarred Question No. 218 on the 19th June 1952. Some of the instructions are recent ones designed to secure improvement wherever this was necessary.

ESTIMATES COMMITTEE

289. **Shri M. L. Dwivedi:** Will the Minister of Finance be pleased to state:

(a) the steps taken by the Government of India on the recommendations of the Estimates Committee contained in their fifth Report to the effect that there should be a specific machinery for ensuring full Parliamentary control over the various schemes and that an explanatory memorandum showing the nature of the scheme, the cost involved, the organisation proposed to undertake the work and other allied matters should be presented to Parliament along with the plans and further that whenever changes in the plans or estimates are required to be made, specific approval of Parliament should be obtained;

(b) whether positive motions seeking the approval of Parliament in all such matters are being brought before the House of the People; and

(c) whether sometime in the year has been set apart for the discussion of progress of work and other allied matters concerning the projects?

The Minister of State for Finance (Shri Tyagi): The Fifth Report, 1951-52 of the Estimates Committee is still under consideration of the Government.

RECRUITMENT TO ARMED FORCES

290. **Shri Ganpati Ram:** Will the Minister of Defence be pleased to state the percentage of Scheduled Castes recruited in 1948-49, 1949-50, 1950-51 and 1951-52 in the Army, Navy and Air Force?

The Minister of Defence (Shri Gopalaswami): No separate statistics are maintained in the three services, since recruitment, whether of officers or of men, is made without any distinction of class or creed.