

## CLAIMS OFFICERS

254. **Dr. N. B. Khare:** Will the Minister of Rehabilitation be pleased to state:

(a) the number of "competent officers" appointed under the Evacuee Interests Separation Act, 1951 (Central Act 64);

(b) the number of claims so far received by each competent officer;

(c) the number of claims decided by each of them with their daily output; and

(d) the period by which these claims are likely to be finalised?

The Minister of Rehabilitation (Shri A. P. Jain): (a) Seven whole-time and fourteen part-time Competent Officers were initially appointed so as to provide one Competent Officer per State according to the magnitude of work involved in the initial stages. Sanction has recently been issued for the appointment of twenty-seven additional whole-time Competent Officers. Actual appointments have been left to the discretion of the State Governments according as may be necessary from time to time. Information about appointments made so far under this sanction has not yet been received.

(b) and (c). According to the scheme of the Act, information has first to be laid before the Competent Officer about the composite property whereupon a notice is issued asking the claimants concerned to put in their claim. In the interests of economy, the first set of Competent Officers appointed under the Act were mainly required to complete the work relating to issue of notices and receipt of claims, adjudication being left, by and large, until such time as the additional Competent Officers were in position to deal with the claims received, as also to be able to deal with the claims on a regional basis for the convenience of the parties. A statement of the information received by the Central Government regarding the work so far done by the Competent Officers is laid on the Table of the House. [See Appendix IV, annexure No. 33].

(d) Every effort is being made to complete the work involved within the least possible time. It is, however, not possible to indicate a date by which the work is likely to be finished.

## CONVENTION ON FREEDOM OF INFORMATION

255. **Sardar Hukam Singh:** (a) Will the Prime Minister be pleased to

state whether the Fifteen Nation Drafting Committee elected by the General Assembly of United Nations to evolve a fresh Draft Convention on Freedom of Information has submitted its draft for the consideration of the Economic and Social Council?

(b) If so, has the Convention been finalised?

The Deputy Minister of External Affairs (Shri Anil K. Chanda): (a) Yes.

(b) No.

## FILMS ON ELECTIONS

256. **Sardar Hukam Singh:** (a) Will the Minister of Information and Broadcasting be pleased to state whether the films dealing specially with "Elections—Rights and Responsibilities" and "Democracy in Action" are still being shown in any place?

(b) What are the languages in which copies of these were distributed?

The Minister of Information and Broadcasting (Dr. Keskar): (a) No, Sir.

(b) "Rights and Responsibilities" in Hindi, Bengali, Tamil, Telugu and English.

"Democracy in Action" in Hindi, Bengali, Gujarati, Kannada, Malayalam, Marathi, Tamil, Telugu and English.

## OIL FROM IRAN

257. **Sardar Hukam Singh:** (a) Will the Minister of Works, Housing and Supply be pleased to state whether India imported any of her requirements of petroleum and its products from Iran in the last five years, ending 31st March, 1952, and, since the outbreak of the dispute between the Iranian Government and the Anglo-Iranian Oil Company?

(b) How far and in what ways have the interests of this country, and of its oil imports been safeguarded, *vis-a-vis* the Iranian oil in face of the existing dispute?

The Deputy Minister of Works, Housing and Supply (Shri Buragohain): (a) Supplies of all major Petroleum Products were received in India from Iran upto the end of June 1951 since when, owing to the closure of loadings *ex* Abadan, imports were dis-continued.

(b) Imports of Petroleum Products in India, inspite of the closure of supplies from Iran, have been maintained from other sources so as to meet the full requirements of the

country and no shortage of stocks or shortfalls in imports are expected in the future.

#### TRANSFER OF IMPORT LICENCES

258. **Sardar Hukam Singh:** Will the Minister of Commerce and Industry be pleased to state:

(a) whether the conditions of grant of import licences permit any transfer of such licences from the person or company in whose names they were issued in the first instance to any other persons or company;

(b) whether any cases have come to the notice of Government involving illegal transfer of any import licence (or its illegal assignment) from the person or persons, in whose name it was originally issued to any other person or persons; and

(c) if so, what action has been taken by Government to guard against any such infringement of the terms of the licence?

**The Minister of Commerce (Shri Karmarkar):** (a) No, Sir.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) Such firms are black listed, i.e., debarred from receiving import and export licence. The question of prosecution is also considered depending upon the nature of the evidence and circumstances of the case.

#### BIDI MANUFACTURING MACHINE

259. **Shri K. C. Sodhia:** (a) Will the Minister of Commerce and Industry be pleased to state whether it is a fact that a machine has been invented for the manufacture of Bidis?

(b) If so, what is its cost and average daily production?

**The Minister of Commerce (Shri Karmarkar):** (a) and (b). Yes, Sir. Government have received reports of Bidi manufacturing machines having been invented by two parties—(i) at Banaras and (ii) at Nasik (Bombay). The machine invented at Banaras is stated to be completely automatic. It can produce 2,400 Bidis per hour. The other machine can be worked up by hand as well as mechanically. It is still in experimental stage. When perfected, it will be capable of producing 1,000 Bidis per hour, if operated manually, and 1,500 Bidis per hour, if operated mechanically.