

seized by the Customs Officer, but on finding that the crew were Pakistan Nationals, had no passport or visa, and had arrived in suspicious circumstances, the Customs Officer handed them over to the Police for interrogation.

(f) The crew were released by the Police on the 23rd December 1952 with a warning that they will not be permitted to re-enter India without valid passports and visas if they proceeded to Goa.

(g) and (h). The result of investigations made in the matter is as follows:—

The Launch 'Padam' was boarded and searched by a Customs Officer at Bombay before departure and nothing objectionable was found. The goods seized at Ratnagiri were picked up by the Launch unauthorisedly perhaps after leaving Bombay. The spare parts of the machinery found on board at Ratnagiri, were intended for the use of the Launch as also of another one belonging to the same owner which is operating in Goa and the other articles were meant for the use of the crew.

The Collector of Central Excise, Bombay, who adjudicated the case, imposed a penalty of Rs. 100/- on the master of the vessel and Rs. 400/- on the owners thereof under section 167(16) read with section 167(8) of the Sea Customs Act, 1878 (VIII of 1878). The goods were allowed to be exported on the condition that the owner executed a bank's guarantee for Rs. 4,000/- or deposited an equal amount in cash binding themselves to re-import the machinery, namely, the welding generator in two parts and two lighting sets with engine along with the Motor Launch..

The Police released the crew with a warning as a result of a decision taken by the Bombay Government.

REVISION PETITIONS REGARDING ALLOTMENT OF LANDS

879. **Shri Madhao Reddi:** Will the Minister of Rehabilitation be pleased to state the number of revision petitions regarding the allotments of lands (rural section) in the Punjab State which could not be disposed of by the Custodian-General, Provincial Custodian, and Provincial Additional Custodian of Evacuee Property up to the 21st July, 1952?

The Minister of Rehabilitation (Shri A. P. Jain):

Custodian General	946
State Custodian	36
State Additional Custodian (R)	1134.

EXCISE DUTY ON BIDI TOBACCO

880. **Shri Jasani:** Will the Minister of Finance be pleased to state the total amount (State-wise) of Excise Duty recovered on account of Bidi Tobacco in the year 1952-53 by the Central Government?

The Deputy Minister of Finance (Shri M. C. Shah): A statement is laid on the Table of the House. [Sec Appendix VIII, annexure No. 16.]

M.E.S. CONTRACTS

881. { **Sardar Hukam Singh:**
Shri Bahadur Singh:

(a) Will the Minister of Defence be pleased to state whether the M.E.S. contracts for the sums above one lakh of rupees are sanctioned by the Chief Engineer of the Command?

(b) What was the number of such contracts sanctioned by the Eastern, Western and Southern Commands respectively during the post-Partition period?

(c) What was the total value of such contracts?

(d) What was the total value of the works completed upto the 31st December, 1952?

(e) What was the amount paid out of the sum referred to in part (d) above?

The Minister of Defence Organisation (Shri Tyagi): (a) Yes.

(b) to (e). A statement is placed on the Table of the House. [See Appendix VIII, annexure No. 17.]

CONTRACTS FOR WORKS DONE BEFORE AUGUST 1947

882. { **Sardar Hukam Singh:**
Shri Bahadur Singh:

(a) Will the Minister of Defence be pleased to state whether any claims on account of contracts for works done before August, 1947 for Defence Departments (M.E.S., Army Remount and others) were referred to Pakistan for verification after Partition?

(b) If so, what was the value of the claims so referred?

(c) What is the value of the claims verified so far by Pakistan?

(d) Have payments of all verified claims been made?

The Minister of Defence Organisation (Shri Tyagi): (a) Yes. 2396 claims were referred to Pakistan authorities.

(b) 78.48 lakhs.