

DETENTIONS UNDER PREVENTIVE DETENTION ACT

410. Shri A. N. Vidyalkar: Will the Minister of Home Affairs be pleased to state:

(a) the number of persons detained under the Preventive Detention Act in the years 1950, 1951 and 1952;

(b) the number of persons released in these years (year-wise);

(c) the number of persons in detention at present (State-wise); and

(d) the number of those under detention on political grounds and the number of those who are detained on the ground of other anti-social activities—like corruption, blackmarketing etc.?

The Minister of Home Affairs and States (Dr. Katju): (a) to (d). I lay on the Table of the House a statement containing the information required by the hon. Member. [See Appendix IV, annexure No. 30.]

I would add, however, that nobody is detained on "political grounds", and detentions are ordered only in one of the specific sets of circumstances laid down in Section 3 of the Act.

MINERAL RESOURCES IN RAJASTHAN

411. Dr. Rama Rao: (a) Will the Minister of Natural Resources and Scientific Research be pleased to state whether a detailed survey of the Rajasthan area has ever been done for estimating its mineral resources?

(b) What are the known resources of minerals in Rajasthan?

The Minister of Education and Natural Resources and Scientific Research (Maulana Azad): (a) and (b). A statement giving the information required is laid on the Table of the House. [See Appendix IV, annexure No. 31.]

GOLD AND SILVER (EXPORT AND IMPORT)

412. Shri K. C. Sodhia: (a) Will the Minister of Finance be pleased to state the total worth of import of (i) gold and (ii) silver during 1950-51, 1951-52 and the current year?

(b) What was the total amount of duty charged in each case during the above years?

(c) What are the names of the countries from which this import has been made?

(d) Was any amount of gold and silver exported from India during the above years and if so, how much?

The Minister of Finance (Shri C. D. Deshmukh): (a) to (d). The information is given in the publications mentioned below copies of which are available in the Library of the House:

(1) 'Accounts relating to the foreign (Sea, Air and Land) Trade and Navigation of India.'

(2) 'Customs and Excise Revenue Statement of the Indian Union.'

WORKING HOURS OF CHOWKIDARS IN M.E.S.

413. Shri Vittal Rao: Will the Minister of Defence be pleased to confirm that the working hours of Chowkidars in the MES are 24 hours a day and if so, what steps Government are contemplating to change the hours and bring them in line with ILO Convention in the near future?

The Deputy Minister of Defence (Sardar Majithia): No, Sir. The working hours of Chowkidars in the M.E.S. generally vary from 8 to 12 hours a day. Only Chowkidars engaged on the care of vacant buildings are employed on a 24 hour basis, but these individuals are usually required to live with their families in portions of the vacant buildings which they have to guard. They have their normal hours of rest in the premises and they are allowed to be off-duty for a few hours when necessary.

The I.L.O. Convention as ratified by India does not apply to this category of labour.

SARNATH EXCAVATION

414. Shri Ganpati Ram: Will the Minister of Education be pleased to state:

(a) the total money spent on the Sarnath Excavation at Banaras every year for its maintenance;

(b) the share of U.P. Government every year; and

(c) whether subscriptions given in charity funds donated by the visitors are used in the maintenance and if so, the total sum spent in each year since 1949?