

**The Minister of Home Affairs and States (Dr. Katju):** (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c). Do not arise.

#### CANTEEN STORES DEPARTMENT

**814. Shri Gidwani:** Will the Minister of Defence be pleased to state:

(a) whether there has been any change recently in the pay scales of the employees of the Canteen Stores Department (India); and

(b) if so, the net increase in expenditure in a year as a result of this revision or change?

**The Deputy Minister of Defence (Sardar Majithia):** (a) Yes.

(b) Approximately Rs. 42,000 in a year.

#### INTEREST-FREE LOANS

**816. Shri M. S. Gurupadaswamy:** Will the Minister of Finance be pleased to state:

(a) the total amount of interest-free loans given by Government during 1954 so far;

(b) the special purposes for which these loans have been given; and

(c) the total amount of loans asked for by the various State Governments during the same period?

**The Minister of Revenue and Civil Expenditure (Shri M. C. Shah):** (a) and (b). Interest-free Loans sanctioned during the current financial year upto the 31st October, 1954, amount to about Rs. 207 lakhs. The main items are:—

- (i) Loans to State Governments for development of handloom industry—Rs. 189 lakhs.
  - (ii) Loans for colonisation in the Andamans—Rs. 12 lakhs.
  - (iii) Loans for development of village industries—Rs. 4 lakhs.
  - (iv) Loans to educational institutions for construction of hostels—Rs. 2 lakhs.
- Total—Rs. 207 lakhs.**

(c) The question presumably relates to interest-free loans. The total amount asked for by the State Governments during this period was about Rs. 196 lakhs.

#### GRANT TO DRAMATIC INSTITUTIONS IN ASSAM

**817. Shri K. P. Tripathi:** Will the Minister of Education be pleased to state:

(a) whether any grant has been made to any Dramatic Institution of Assam during the current financial year;

(b) if so, its name;

(c) whether similar grant has been made to any Institution of Music in Assam during the same period; and

(d) if so, its name?

**The Minister of Education and Natural Resources and Scientific Research (Maulana Azad):** (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

#### अफीम

८१८. श्री बी० जी० शस्त्री: क्या वित्त मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि:

(क) आजकल किन-किन राज्यों में अफीम की खेती होती है; और

(ख) १९५४ में किन-किन राज्यों में इस की खेती पर रोक लगायी गयी थी?

**The Minister of Revenue and Defence Expenditure (Shri A. C. Guha):** (a) Poppy is at present cultivated in the States of Madhya Bharat, Rajasthan, Uttar Pradesh and to a small extent in Jammu and Kashmir, for the extraction of opium; in Tehri Garhwal and Debra Dun districts of the Uttar Pradesh cultivation for purposes of the production of seed is also allowed; and in the States of the Punjab and PEPSU exclusively for production of seed

(b) Poppy cultivation has been banned in the State of Himachal Pradesh with effect from the 1st October, 1954.

**CHINA CLAY ORE**

**819. Shri Deogam:** Will the Minister of Natural Resources and Scientific Research be pleased to state:

(a) the quantity of China clay ore (Kaolin) produced in the country annually; and

(b) how the quality of indigenous China clay compares with that of other countries?

**The Minister in the Ministry of Natural Resources and Scientific Research (Shri K. D. Malaviya):** (a) and (b). A statement giving the required information is laid on the Table of the House. [See Appendix V, annexure No. 65.]