

INTERIM RELIEF SCHEME

901. Sardar Hukam Singh: Will the Minister of Rehabilitation be pleased to state:

(a) the extent of immediate relief given under the Interim Relief Scheme, during 1954, to the investors of Postal Certificates and depositors of Post Office Savings Bank whose accounts could not be transferred from Pakistan; and

(b) the total amount of claims verified under this Scheme?

The Deputy Minister of Rehabilitation (Shri J. K. Bhonsle): (a) Rs. 1,16,529.

(b) Rs. 13,63,910.

ADVANCES TO DISPLACED PERSONS

902. Shri Krishnacharya Joshi: Will the Minister of Rehabilitation be pleased to state:

(a) the total amount advanced to displaced persons during 1954; and

(b) the total amount recovered from them during the same period?

The Deputy Minister of Rehabilitation (Shri J. K. Bhonsle): (a) and (b). The information is not readily available. The labour and time involved in collection of this information will be incommensurate with the results to be achieved.

GRANT TO PUNJAB

903. Shri D. C. Sharma: Will the Minister of Commerce and Industry be pleased to state the amount granted for the improvement of small-scale industries in the Punjab during 1954-55 so far?

The Minister of Commerce and Industry (Shri T. T. Krishnamachari): Rs. 7,11,112.

INDIAN FILM FESTIVALS

904. Shri D. C. Sharma: Will the Prime Minister be pleased to state:

(a) whether Indian film festivals are going to be held in some countries of the world; and

(b) if so, the names of those countries?

The Prime Minister and Minister of External Affairs and Defence (Shri Jawaharlal Nehru): (a) and (b). Yes. In the U.S.A.

INDIAN POLICEMEN IMPRISONED IN PAKISTAN

905. Shri Nageshwar Prasad Sinha: Will the Prime Minister be pleased to refer to the reply given to starred question No. 1347 on the 23rd December, 1953 and state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a dozen policemen, who were arrested by Pakistan police on the borders of Rajasthan and subsequently imprisoned for 15 months have since been released and sent back to India on the 1st October, 1954; and

(b) whether it is a fact that they were tortured in the Pakistan jail?

The Prime Minister and Minister of External Affairs and Defence (Shri Jawaharlal Nehru): (a) Two head constables and 10 constables were ambushed by Pakistani police in Indian territory in Rajasthan on the 30th July, 1952, and taken away to Pakistan. They were sentenced to one year's rigorous imprisonment and a fine of Rs. 500 each on one count and seven years' rigorous imprisonment and a fine of Rs. 2,000 each on another. As a result of representations made by the Government of India they were released on the 23rd September, 1954.

(b) No, Sir.

ENGINEERS

906. Shri Gidwani: Will the Minister of Irrigation and Power be pleased to state:

(a) the number of sanctioned posts of Engineers of different categories on all the multi-purpose projects;

(b) how much of the sanctioned strength is unfilled;

(c) the reasons therefor; and

(d) the steps proposed to be taken to fill the vacancies?

The Deputy Minister of Irrigation and Power (Shri Hathi): The requisite information in respect of Centrally-