

(एम०ई०सी०) ने 8-11-1979 को स्थल पर गार्न करने, खंढकें बनाने और नमूने लेने तथा विश्लेषण करने का काम शुरू किया था और यह काम 6-11-1980 को पूरा हो गया है। खनिजीकरण और परिष्करण संबंधी आगे का अध्ययन कार्य जारी है और गहन खोज संबंधी काम के अंततः 6 महीने की अवधि में पूरा हो जाने की संभावना है।

M/s. Parle Beverages Private Ltd.

4625. SHRI HARISH CHANDER SINGH RAWAT: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that some case of excise duty evasion has been proposed against M/s. Parle Beverages Private Limited if so, what action Government propose to take;

(b) whether any show cause-cum-demand notices have been issued to the above parties during the period from 1st August, 1973 to 31st March, 1980 as for differential duty; and

(c) if so, the amount of evasion of excise duty involved in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI SAWAI SINGH SISODIA): (a) and (b). Yes, Sir. Show cause-cum-demand notices have been issued to M/s. Parle Beverages Private Limited, Bombay, for the alleged evasion of duty during 1-8-73 to 31-3-80 and these are under adjudication proceedings.

(c) The amount of evasion of duty involved is Rs. 1,23,91,373.36 P.

Key Punching Operators in Directorate of Excise and Customs

4626. SHRI T. S. NEGI: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to refer to the replies given to Unstarred Questions Nos. 613 and 709 on the 21st November, 1980 regarding confirmation/promotion of Key Punching Operators in Directorate of Excise and Customs and state:

(a) what concrete steps are being taken to improve the lot of the Key

Punching Operators in the Directorate of Excise and Customs, who have passed the Departmental typing test and Departmental Examination of the U.D.C., Grade; and

(b) whether Government propose considering the cases of their confirmations in accordance with the recommendations of the Pay Commission to confirm 80 per cent posts each year?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI SAWAISINGH SISODIA): (a) According to the existing orders eligible K.P.Os. with a minimum of seven years service in the grade can be considered for promotion to the post of U.D.C. However, the qualifying service was relaxed to four years as an *ad hoc* and purely temporary measure as eligible LDCs/KPOs with seven years service were not available for promotion against the existing vacancies in the grade of UDC. All vacancies in the grade of UDC except five, which became available in December, 1980, have been filled up by promotion of LDCs/KPOs. As LDCs/KPOs with 4-5 years service have been promoted as U.D.Cs., there is no stagnation and the promotion prospects from LDC/KPO to U.D.C. are quite satisfactory. The posts of U.D.Cs. are created with reference to the workload and relevant norms and not merely for making promotions from lower grades. The cases of existing KPOs, eligible for promotion to the grade of U.D.C. will be considered for such promotion in due course as and when vacancies in the grade of UDC are available.

(b) The cases of eligible candidates for confirmation will be considered as and when permanent posts become available.

Foreign Exchange kept in Foreign Countries by Recruiting Agents

4627. SHRI B. D. SINGH: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that foreign exchange amounting to

crores of rupees is either kept in the foreign countries or is not recovered from the foreign employers by the Recruiting Agents in the country for workers to Gulf countries as required under the contracts registered with the Protector of Emigrants at Bombay;

(b) whether Government are also aware that an equal amount is paid in foreign exchange by the Recruiting Agents to the foreign employers to cover the cost of return air tickets of the workers in contravention of the registered contracts;

(c) if so, the extent to which foreign exchange was drained as a result thereof during the last three years; and

(d) the steps taken by the Government to check the malpractice followed by the Recruiting Agents?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI SAWAISINGH SISODIA): (a) to (d). The Government is aware that some of the agents in India recruiting workers for the Gulf countries are indulging in mal-practices which result in loss of foreign exchange. The Enforcement Directorate, which deals with offences under the Foreign Exchange Regulation Act, has been vigilant and has taken action against a number of such agents. The investigations made by them have, *inter alia*, revealed that in some cases the commission due to the recruiting agents from foreign employers is not repatriated to India; in some cases certain amounts are paid to foreign employers or their agents in India or abroad and the air fare from India to Gulf countries is paid in some cases in India by them instead of receiving it from the foreign employers. However, by the very nature of things it is not possible to state the extent to which the foreign exchange has been drained as a result of the mal-practices.

Income-tax raid in Puri

4628. SHRI SHIV KUMAR SINGH THAKUR: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Income-tax Department has raided and seized gold worth lakhs of rupees from a relative of mahant of Puri in Orissa as appearing in the "Hindustan Times" dated 2nd December, 1980;

(b) if so, the details of the gold and other such valuables seized;

(c) whether some arrests have been made in this regard, and if so, the details thereof; and

(d) whether there is any proposal under the consideration of Government to initiate recovery of Income-tax from the defaulters in the country and if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI SAWAISINGH SISODIA): (a) Sir, the Income-tax Department searched the residence of Shri Bhagwan Das Sharma, Special Officer, Emar Math, Puri on 28-11-1980. Shri Sharma is the brother of the present Mahant of Emar Math.

(b) During the course of the search, cash amounting to Rs. 40,000/- and jewellery approximately valued at Rs. 2 lakhs have been seized. In addition, primary gold valued at Rs. 7,000/- have also been seized by the Central Excise Authorities.

(c) No, Sir. There is no provision in the Income-tax Act, 1961 for arrest during the course of search, for suspected tax evasion.

(d) The Income-tax Act, 1961 provides for several steps for enforcing collection and recovery of tax arrears such as levy of penalty, attachment of money due to the defaulters, distraint and sale of movable property, attachment and sale of immovable property etc. Depending upon the facts and circumstances of each case,