

grants in the State during the same period; and

(d) if no grant was given, the reasons thereof?

The Deputy Minister of Home Affairs (Shrimati Alva): (a) A statement is laid on the Table of Lok Sabha. [See Appendix IV, annexure No. 57]

(b) No, Sir.

(c) and (d). The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of Lok Sabha when received.

Acquisition of Land in Burdwan for Oil Drilling

1252. Shri Subodh Hasda: Will the Minister of Steel, Mines and Fuel be pleased to state:

(a) how many acres of land were acquired by the Indo-Stanvac Oil Company for Oil drilling operation near Burdwan in West Bengal;

(b) whether these lands were private properties; and

(c) if so, whether any compensation was paid to the landowners?

The Minister of Mines and Oil (Shri K. D. Malaviya): (a) 14.76 acres.

(b) Yes.

(c) Compensation was paid to the landowners concerned at the rate of Rs. 2419.19 per annum.

Sepoys of Central Excise Department

1253. Shri D. A. Katti: Will the Minister of Finance be pleased to state whether Government are aware that the Central Excise Department Sepoys are transferred from one State to another or to the places quite far off from their places of permanent residences, thus putting them to great inconvenience even when no purpose of administrative convenience is served?

The Deputy Minister of Finance (Shri B. R. Bhagat): The administrative unit for the purposes of recruit-

ment and confirmation of Sepoys is the Collectorate. The jurisdiction of some of the Collectorates extends to more than a single State. The Sepoys are, therefore, liable for transfer anywhere within the Collectorate but when ordering transfers the places of their permanent residences are taken into consideration. But generally they are transferred only within the Circle and to another Division whenever necessitated by administrative reasons. Transfers to another Division are also made on the personal request of the persons concerned to suit their convenience.

Recently the jurisdiction of the Central Excise Collectorates was re-adjusted on account of the re-organisation of the States. The staff who were working in the affected areas have, as far as possible, been shifted, or are in the process of being transferred, to the areas to which they belong, in available vacancies, to the extent possible.

Nepalese and Bhutanese Officers

1254 Shri B. S. Murthy: Will the Minister of Defence be pleased to state:

(a) the number of Nepalese and Bhutanese officers at present serving in the Indian Army; and

(b) their service conditions?

The Deputy Minister of Defence (Shri Raghuramalah): (a) 116 Nepalese Officers, including 85 such officers who are of Indian domicile, were serving in the Indian Army on 1/8/57. There are no Bhutanese officers in the Indian Army.

(b) The terms and conditions of service of Nepalese Officers in the Indian Army are the same as those for the other officers of the Army.

Diamond deposits at Vajrakaroor

1255. Shri B. S. Murthy: Will the Minister of Steel, Mines and Fuel be pleased to refer to the reply given to Unstarred Question No. 583 on the 4th December, 1956 and state: