

In the case of Government officials, the selection was by virtue of the particular posts held by them as regards others, the primary consideration was their qualifications, expert knowledge and specialised experience.

Seizure of Smuggled Gold

1010. Shri Daljit Singh: Will the Minister of Finance be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that on the 11th September, 1958 the Customs staff seized about 500 tolas of smuggled gold worth Rs. 50,000 following a raid on a hotel in Fatehpuri, Delhi; and

(b) if so, the details of the action taken in the matter?

The Minister of Finance (Shri Morarji Desai): (a) Yes, sir.

The Customs staff seized about 500 tolas of gold worth Rs. 50,000 on the 11th September, 1958 as a result of a raid in the Taj Mahal Hotel, Fatehpuri, Delhi.

(b) The offenders were arrested under section 173 of the Sea Customs Act and produced before the Magistrate who released them on bail. Departmental action under Customs law is being taken against them.

Mahadeva Temple of Itagi

1011. Shri Agadi: Will the Minister of Scientific Research and Cultural Affairs be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Mahadeva temple of Itagi, District Raichur in Mysore State is losing its architectural beauty and grandeur; and

(b) if so, whether Government propose to renovate the temple?

The Deputy Minister of Scientific Research and Cultural Affairs (Dr. M. M. Das): (a) The present structure of the temple is in a fair state of preservation.

(b) No, Sir, but usual repairs will be carried out in consonance with archaeological principles.

M.E.S. Road at Cannanore

1012. Shri Jinachandran: Will the Minister of Defence be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that M.E.S. Road (Fort Road) at Cannanore is in a bad condition; and

(b) whether there is any proposal to attend to this road in the immediate future?

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

(b) Yes. The question of attending to the repairs of the road is under consideration.

East Bagrakote Colliery

1013. Shrimati Benu Chakravartty: Will the Minister of Steel, Mines and Fuel be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have granted a new coal mining lease for East Bagrakote Colliery to a private company;

(b) whether the proprietor is connected with any other colliery in the area;

(c) whether it is a fact that allegation of malpractices in the colliery have been brought to the notice of Government;

(d) what was the total quota of production promised and actual performance; and

(e) whether any enquiry has been instituted?

The Minister of Steel, Mines and Fuel (Sardar Swaran Singh): (a) On 10th February, 1958 the Government of West Bengal granted a new mining lease for the East Bagrakote Colliery in favour of Shri P. K. Ray.

(b) Shri P. K. Ray is one of the Directors of the Himalaya Coal and Mineral Industries, who are the managing agents of M/s. M. K. Ray (Private) Limited, owners of the Bagrakote (Dalingkote) colliery lying