

posal for legislation on the American lines for revision or re-negotiation of Government contracts made with private parties or firms?

The Deputy Minister of Law (Shri Hajirnavis): The Government are considering whether any legislation along the lines mentioned in the question can and should be undertaken.

State Bank of India Branches in Punjab

961. { Shri Ajit Singh Sarhadhi;
Shri Ram Krishan Gupta:

Will the Minister of Finance be pleased to state:

(a) the number of branches of State Bank of India that had been opened in Punjab in 1958-59; and

(b) the number of branches to be opened in Punjab during the rest of the Plan period?

The Minister of Finance (Shri Morarji Desai): (a) The State Bank of India has opened 7 branches in Punjab in 1958-59.

(b) As on 31st October, 1959 three more branches remained to be opened (five of the approved centres having been released in favour of the Bank of Patiala which is to be reconstituted as a subsidiary of the State Bank). It is expected that these three branches will have been opened by the end of June, 1960.

Gift Tax and Wealth Tax Collections in Punjab

962. { Shri Ajit Singh Sarhadhi;
Shri Ram Krishan Gupta:

Will the Minister of Finance be pleased to state the amount of Gift Tax and Wealth Tax collections which are expected in Punjab during 1959-60?

The Minister of Finance (Shri Morarji Desai): According to the Budget estimates framed in March,

1959, in Punjab, it is expected that Rs. 1,80,000 and Rs. 10,00,000 will be collected by way of Gift Tax and Wealth Tax respectively in the year 1959-60.

Teaching of Persian and Arabic in Delhi Schools

963. Shri M. B. Thakore: Will the Minister of Education be pleased to state:

(a) what steps have been taken by Government to improve the teaching of Persian and Arabic in Higher Secondary Schools in Delhi; and

(b) how many trained women teachers in Persian and Arabic are employed in Delhi Schools under the Director of Education, Delhi?

The Minister of Education (Dr. K. L. Shrivastava): (a) Persian and Arabic are optional subjects for which qualified teachers are appointed in schools where a minimum of 12 students in the higher secondary classes offer the subject.

(b) Two.

Engineering College at Palghat

964. { Shri Warior;
Shri T. B. Vittal Rao;
Shri Kadiyan:

Will the Minister of Scientific Research and Cultural Affairs be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have decided to start an Engineering College in Palghat;

(b) if so, at what stage the proposal is at present; and

(c) what amount is set apart for the same and when the College will be opened for admission?

The Deputy Minister of Scientific Research and Cultural Affairs (Dr. M. M. Das): (a) and (b). A proposal of the Kerala Government to start an Engineering College at Palghat is