

(c) if not, the reasons therefor? 7

The Minister of Defence (Shri Krishna Menon): (a) An auction sale was held on the 10th October, 1952, but was not completed. The reasons therefor are being investigated

(b) and (c). The matter is under inquiry.

State Bank of India Branches in Bihar

139. Shri Anirudh Sinha: Will the Minister of Finance be pleased to state the number of branches of the State Bank of India opened in the State of Bihar so far?

The Minister of Finance (Shri Morarji Desai): Since it was constituted on the 1st July, 1955, the State Bank of India has opened 26 branches in Bihar upto the 31st October, 1959

Branches of State Bank of India in Jammu and Kashmir

140 Shri Inder J. Malhotra: Will the Minister of Finance be pleased to state:

(a) the number of branches of State Bank of India opened in Jammu and Kashmir State so far; and

(b) whether Government have any proposals to open any new branches during 1959-60?

The Minister of Finance (Shri Morarji Desai): (a) The State Bank of India has one branch each at Jammu and Srinagar and also maintains a pay office at Gulmarg for certain months in the year. These offices were taken over from the Imperial Bank on 1-7-1955 when the State Bank of India was constituted.

(b) The branch expansion programme of the State Bank does not cover the State of Jammu and Kashmir which is served by the Jammu and Kashmir Bank. The question of establishing new branches of the State Bank during 1959-60 does not, therefore, arise.

Illegal Mint in Delhi

141. Shri Ramji Verma: Will the Minister of Home Affairs be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that an illegal mint has been unearthed by the Delhi Police at Serai Pipal Thala in Alipur Police Station area; and

(b) how many persons have been arrested in this connection?

The Minister of Home Affairs (Shri G. B. Pant): (a) Yes.

(b) Two.

Medicinal Herbs

142. Shri Vidya Charan Shukla: Will the Minister of Scientific Research and Cultural Affairs be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that during their recent tour of the forest areas of Bastar District in Madhya Pradesh, Dr. Subramaniam of the Botanical Survey of India and Shri A N Henry, Chief Botanical Expert of the Government of India, had come across certain herbs and plants which are likely to be found valuable in the laboratories for preparation of costly medicines; and

(b) if so, whether any steps are being taken to establish the utility and proper exploitation of these herbs and plants?

The Deputy Minister of Scientific Research and Cultural Affairs (Dr M. M. Das): (a) and (b). Dr. K Subramaniam, Regional Botanist, Southern Circle, Botanical Survey of India and Shri A. Henry, Herbarium Assistant in that Department, collected a number of plants during their recent tour of the forest areas of Bastar State in Madhya Pradesh, under the usual programme of exploration work. Some plants of known medicinal value were also collected but none of the plants can be said to be of special medicinal value or significance.