

Bank have been opened since the Re-organisation of the States;

(b) if so, the number of branches opened in the State of Madras; and

(c) the present total number in the State of Madras?

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

(b) 39 branches and 7 pay offices of the State Bank have been opened in Madras State between the 1st November, 1956 and the 31st March, 1960.

(c) The Reserve Bank has one branch and the State Bank of India 64 branches and 16 pay offices.

Arakilla Moat, Bijapur

2732. Shri Sugandhi: Will the Minister of Scientific Research and Cultural Affairs be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that the western side wall of the old historic Arakilla Moat (Khandak) along the inner fort in Bijapur is in a most dilapidated condition endangering the public;

(b) whether it is also a fact that portion of the wall adjacent to the Narashimva Temple has many fissures and is likely to crash at any time; and

(c) the action taken or proposed to be taken to protect the temple and to adopt safety measures for the public?

The Deputy Minister of Scientific Research and Cultural Affairs (Dr. M. M. Das): (a) The dwarf wall on the western side of the Arakilla moat is dilapidated at places.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) Repairs to the dilapidated portion of the moat are proposed to be taken up shortly.

Mulk-e-Maidan, Bijapur

2733. Shri Sugandhi: Will the Minister of Scientific Research and Cultural Affairs be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a fatal accident occurred recently from the rampart of Mulk-e-Maidan at Bijapur;

(b) how many such accidents have occurred in the past ten years from the same spot; and

(c) the action taken or proposed to be taken to avoid such accidents in future?

The Deputy Minister of Scientific Research and Cultural Affairs (Dr. M. M. Das): (a) No, Sir.

(b) No accident has occurred in the recent past.

(c) Does not arise. There is already a railing on the periphery of the rampart.

Scheduled Caste Officials in P. & T. Directorate

2734. Shri Manay: Will the Minister of Home Affairs be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Scheduled Caste officials nominated in the Posts and Telegraphs Directorate under May, 1948 orders were confirmed from the date of joining that office, i.e., from July and August, 1949, whereas their colleagues nominated in other offices were confirmed from 1st December, 1948 under Ministry of Home Affairs orders dated 4th September, 1949; and

(b) if so, the reasons for this discrimination especially when the permanent vacancies from 1st December, 1948 were available and their juniors working in that office were confirmed from that date?

The Minister of State in the Ministry of Home Affairs (Shri Datar): (a) Yes.

(b) Before the 1st May, 1954, there was no common cadre of clerks for