

Tea Estates

*1496. { Shri N. R. Ghosh:
Shri P. C. Borooah:

Will the Minister of Finance be pleased to state:

(a) how many tea-estates owned by Sterling Companies have been sold by them during 1955-60; and

(b) at what price?

The Deputy Minister of Finance (Shri B. R. Bhagat): (a) and (b). Information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the Lok Sabha when available.

Institute of Radiation Medicine

*1497. Shri P. C. Borooah: Will the Minister of Defence be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a scheme for starting an institute for radiation medicine in the country;

(b) if so, where; and

(c) at what cost?

The Minister of Defence (Shri Krishna Menon): (a) Yes, Sir. A scheme is under consideration.

(b) and (c). The contemplated project has not reached the stage when details have been formulated.

Excise Duty on Power-Looms

*1498. Shri A. M. Tariq: Will the Minister of Finance be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that great difference will be there in the cost of manufacture of raffal cloth in Handloom sector and powerloom sector as a result of levy of excise duty on powerloom sector;

(b) whether it is a fact that this would affect the very existence of powerlooms; and

(c) if so, what steps Government propose to take so that both the sectors may co-exist?

The Deputy Minister of Finance (Shri B. R. Bhagat): (a) There being no Central Excise control over handloom units, reliable data is not readily available. Information as available with us indicates that bringing of woollen powerlooms units having 2 to 4 looms under excise will not greatly increase the difference in the cost of production in the powerloom units vis-a-vis that on handloom units.

(b) No.

(c) Does not arise.

C.O.D., Delhi

*1499. { Shri Muhammed Elias:
Shri S. M. Banerjee:

Will the Minister of Defence be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there is a big shortage of valuable stores in C.O.D., Delhi Cantt.;

(b) if so, whether any enquiry has been instituted;

(c) if so, what are the findings; and

(d) the total amount of loss written off during 1960-61?

The Minister of Defence (Shri Krishna Menon): (a) There has been no big shortage of valuable stores. Certain deficiencies were, however, discovered during normal stock taking and action is in hand to investigate the reasons for the shortages.

(b) and (c). In all cases, where deficiencies have been noticed, Courts of Inquiry have been held or are being held to pinpoint responsibility. In two cases, departmental action is being taken against the persons involved. In three other cases, Courts of Inquiry are still under progress.

(d) The total amount of loss so far written off on account of deficiencies discovered during normal stocktaking in 1960-61 is Rs. 14,003.72. This figure does not include the cases mentioned