

(d) Some structures discovered in the Gulf of Cambay have been recommended for test drilling.

(e) Of the 4 structures tested by drilling in Assam, Rudrasagar and Lakwa have proved to be oil bearing.

(f) Negotiations are in progress with foreign companies with a view to start drilling operations in the off-shore areas. The question of the ONGC drilling in some of these areas is also being examined.

Promotions in Customs Department

8845. Shri Vishwanatha Menon: Will the Minister of Finance be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that for the promotion from the clerical cadre to the cadre of Preventive Officers, Grade II, in the Customs Department, the age limit is 38 years while this age limit has been relaxed to 40 years in the case of those ex-servicemen who served during World War II;

(b) whether this age relaxation is denied to ex-servicemen of the post-independence era; and

(c) if so, the reasons therefor and the action taken to remove it?

The Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Finance (Shri Morarji Desai): (a) Yes, Sir.

The age limit has been relaxed to 40 years in the case of those war service candidates only who have combatant service to their credit.

(b) No, Sir.

No distinction has been drawn between war service candidates having combatant service to their credit, of the pre-independence era and the post-independence era, in the matter of age relaxation.

(c) Does not arise.

Accommodation for Students etc. in Delhi

8846. Shri Jyotirmoy Basu:
Shri K. Halder:
Shri P. P. Esthose:

Will the Minister of Works, Housing and Supply be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a pressing demand for accommodation for students in Delhi;

(b) whether there is also great need for cheap hotel accommodation for visiting students, lower class employees and candidates called for interview by the Union Public Service Commission and other Government bodies; and

(c) if so, the steps which Government have taken to remove the shortage of accommodation?

The Deputy Minister of Works, Housing and Supply (Shri Iqbal Singh): (a) Yes.

(b) and (c). Having recognised the necessity for providing cheaper hotel accommodation to the visitors to Delhi, whatever may be the object of their visit, the Ministry of Works, Housing and Supply has set up Lodhi hotel and Hotel Ranjit which are star I and star II hotels respectively under Janpath Hotels Ltd. In addition, there are many private hotels in the town which cater to the requirements of the visitors of the different income groups. As such, there is no proposal for the present to provide any further hotel accommodation in the public sector.

Production of Petroleum Products and Coke

8847. Shri J. B. S. Bist:
Shri J. Ramapathi Rao:

Will the Minister of Petroleum and Chemicals be pleased to state:

(a) the quantity of petroleum products produced at Digboi refinery and Gauhati (Noonmati) refinery in 1964, 1965, 1966 and upto June, 1967; and

(b) the quantity of raw coke produced at each of the above refineries during the above period?

The Minister of State in the Ministry of Petroleum and Chemicals and of Planning and Social Welfare (Shri Raghu Ramiah): (a) and (b). A statement is laid on the Table of the House. [Placed in Library. See No. LT-1425/67].

Foreign Exchange Racket in Bombay

8848. Shri Shiva Chandra Jha: Will the Minister of Finance be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a racket in foreign exchange is going on at Bombay Port;

(b) if so, the estimated foreign currency smuggled in Bombay during the last year; and

(c) the steps being taken by Government to check it?

The Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Finance (Shri Morarji Desai): (a) In past, the Enforcement Directorate have unearthed a few cases in Bombay in which foreign exchange racketeers were found to be operating on a country-wide scale. There is no evidence available with the Government to indicate the existence of any new organised racket in foreign exchange in Bombay.

(b) It is not possible to form any precise estimate as to the extent of smuggling of foreign currency during the last year.

(c) The Customs Department and the Enforcement Directorate are continuing intensive vigilance over smuggling of currency and violations of foreign exchange regulations. Foreign Exchange Regulation Act, 1947 was last amended in 1965 to make the control more effective. Measures to tighten up the control further are under consideration of the Government.

Messrs. Ahmed Group of Mills, Bombay

8849. Shri Kanwar Lal Gupta: Will the Minister of Finance be pleased to state:

(a) when the income-tax for the assessment year 1962-63 was levied at Rs. 4,23,804 on Messrs. Ahmed Group of Mills (Bombay);

(b) when the stay order was obtained by the assessee from the High Court;

(c) the steps taken to expedite inspecting and finalising of pending assessments for the years from 1963-64 to 1966-67;

(d) the steps taken to safeguard Government's interest especially when Shri Rajnath, the Managing partner and Director of the assessee, issue cheques worth lakhs of rupees to Government without funds in banks, evade payment of Income-tax dues and obstruct assessments of several years;

(e) how long after the raids and seizure of Account books in early 1965, the investigations actually commenced and how much further time they are likely to take, giving details of the investigations completed, year-wise;

(f) whether Shri Rajnath, filed the returns of Income-tax by the lessees, the Shree Ambar Nath Mills from the 1st September, 1952 to 30th June, 1954; and

(g) if so, the results of the assessments made and if not, the reasons for the Department overlooking the same?

The Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Finance (Shri Morarji Desai): (a) Tax of Rs. 4,23,804 was levied on 28th March, 1967.

(b) 5th May, 1967.

(c) These assessments are covered by the stay order of the High Court. So, they can be finalised only after the stay order is vacated.