

in the production of bulk drugs which now totals Rs. 40 crores; these include a variety of essential drugs from basic stages. The sale value has also increased from about Rs. 35 crores in 1952 to about Rs. 275 crores during 1970.

Theft of Mig Batteries in Kanpur

*442. SHRI C.T. DHANDAPANI: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether C.B.I. was asked to probe into the theft of MIG batteries worth Rs. 6 lakh from the Aircraft maintenance command in Kanpur; and

(b) if so, whether Government has received its report?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI JAGJIVAN RAM)

(a) and (b). 14 MIG Batteries worth Rs. 1.44 lakhs were stolen from Air Force Station, Chakeri, on the night of 18th 19th July, 1971. These batteries have since been recovered. The case was investigated by Air Force authorities and the local civil police. One Serviceman and 13 civilians are suspected to be involved in the theft. Out of 13 civilians, 7 have been arrested and 6 are still at large. The matter is pending in the court of judicial magistrate.

Raids by income tax authorities in Jagadhari and Yamuna Nagar (Haryana).

*443. SHRI B.S. BHAURA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Income-tax authorities conducted raids on the 5th November, 1971 on the premises of metal merchants in Jagadhari and Yamuna Nagar;

(b) whether the Income-tax Authorities had to break open locks of the premises of a merchant who had fled; and

(c) whether a number of lockers in local banks have also been sealed in the course of raids for subsequent searches?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI YESWANTRAO CHAVAN) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) Only one such locker was sealed in the course of a search under section 132 (1) of the Income-tax Act and a notice under Section 132 (3) of the said Act was served on the Bank prohibiting the operation of the locker.

Ceiling on Dividends by Companies

*444. SHRI JAGADISH BHATTACHARYYA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are considering any proposal to impose a ceiling on dividends by Companies; and

(b) if so, the salient features of the proposals?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI YESWANTRAO CHAVAN) :

(a) and (b). Government have been considering from time to time ways and means of evolving an integrated policy on prices and incomes including incomes in the form of salaries, wages, dividends, interest etc. and prices of industrial and agricultural goods. Details regarding the policy on any particular area can be given only when specific decisions are taken in that regard.

Cases referred under the Monopolies and Restrictive trade Practices Act.

*445 SHRI MUHAMMED SHERIFF: Will the Minister of COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Department of Company Affairs have taken long time in the disposal of applications referred to it under the Monopolies and Restrictive Trade Practices Act; and

(b) if so, the steps taken by Government to expedite disposal of such cases?

THE MINISTER OF COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI RAGHUNATHA REDDY) : (a) and (b). The procedure has been streamlined and as far as possible the applications are disposed of within the time limits laid down in section 30 of the Act.