

(ख) कोई भी संसद सदस्य स्वयं दिल्ली विकास प्राधिकरण का सदस्य नहीं है, किन्तु संसद के तीन सदस्य—दो लोक सभा से तथा एक राज्य सभा से—उसकी सलाहकार परिषद (एडवाइजरी काउन्सिल) के सदस्य हैं।

(ग) प्रश्न ही नहीं उठता।

Excise Duty on Straw Board and Mill Board

*21. SHRI S. S. KOTHARI : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is fact that the excise duty on strawboard and millboard increases sharply above a certain level of production and that due to duty free imports from Nepal the industry is facing difficulties ;

(b) if so, whether Government would consider reducing excise duty ; and

(c) whether Government would impose import duty on strawboard and millboard coming to India from Nepal to ensure that the indigenous industry is not affected adversely ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI P. C. SETHI) : (a) The existing structure of effective rates of duty are so fixed that the increase in average incidence of duty per metric tonne is gradual according to increase in production; according to the information available at present, imports from Nepal have not affected the indigenous industry.

(b) and (c). Do not arise.

Foreign Exchange Racket by Mr. Nainmal Poonjaji Shah of Bombay.

22. SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether investigations into the foreign exchange racket by Mr. Nainmal Poonjaji Shah of Bombay have been completed;

(b) if not, what are the preliminary findings in his case ;

(c) whether it is a fact that Mr. Nainmal Poonjaji had donated Rs. 25 lakhs to the Famine Relief Fund in Rajasthan; and

(d) if so, whether Government inquired into the circumstances in which Mr. Shah came in possession of this vast sum of money?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI P. C. SETHI) : (a) No, Sir. The investigations are still in progress.

(b) The preliminary findings show contravention of the provisions of the Customs Act and the Foreign exchange Regulation Act.

(c) Shri Nainmal Poonjaji Shah expressed his desire to the Chief Minister, Rajasthan to undertake famine relief work in Jalore District to the extent of about Rs. 25 lakhs on his own without any intervention of the Government of Rajasthan. He did not, however, pay any money in cash or by cheque to the Chief Minister's Relief Fund.

(d) The departments concerned are seized of the matter.

Expansion of the Manganese Mines

*23. SHRI BAIDHAR BEHERA :
SHRI LAKHAN LAL KAPOOR :

Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS AND MINES AND METALS be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that Government propose to discontinue the proposed expansion of the manganese mines in the country;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the steps taken to provide alternative employment to the workers thrown out of work due to stoppage and reduction of work ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS AND MINES AND METALS (SHRI JAGANATH RAO) : (a) and (b). The manganese ore export market is passing through difficult time due to fall in prices and increased competition in the international market from other countries like

Cabon, Brazil etc. As such the question of expansion of manganese mines in the country does not arise.

(c) Efforts are being made to step up exports of manganese ore, as also internal sales. In addition other Mining Organisation have been addressed to examine the possibility of employing such workers.

Selection Grade Posts for Daftries

*24. SHRI P. C. ADICHAN : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to refer to the reply given to Unstarred Question No. 8471 on the 5th May, 1969 and state :

(a) whether the information regarding the number of Selection Grade posts of Daftries in the various Ministries and Departments and their pay-Scales has since been collected; and

(b) if so, details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI P. C. SETHI) : (a) Information is still awaited from a few Ministries/Departments. Complete information will be laid on the Table of the House in due course.

(b) Does not arise.

Bungalow allotted in Delhi to Sheikh Abdullah

*25. SHRI MAHANT DIGVIJAY NATH: SHRI B. K. DASCHOWDHURY: SHRI ONKAR SINGH: SHRI SHRI GOPAL SABOO:

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY PLANNING AND WORKS, HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that Sheikh Abdullah has been allotted a bungalow in Delhi at a very nominal rent;

(b) whether it is also a fact that the market rent of such bungalows ranges between Rs. 800 to Rs. 1600 per month;

(c) if so, the reason for giving a residen-

tial accommodation to Sheikh Abdullah at concessional rent; and

(d) the exact wording of the certificate given by the Union Ministry to describe the occupation ?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY PLANNING, AND WORKS, HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI K. K. SHAH) : (a) A house has been allotted to Sheikh Abdullah on a rent of Rs. 178 per month and an additional rent of Rs. 100 per month for furniture.

(b) The market rent of such bungalows in this area ranges between Rs. 570/- and Rs. 690/- per month.

(c) Consequent on his release, Sheikh Abdullah was allowed to retain the bungalow where he had been detained, on a temporary basis, having regard to his position in public life and the other circumstances of the case.

(d) No certificate has been issued by the Ministry to describe the occupant, nor is such issue required.

Effect of increased Taxation

*26. SHRI LOBO PRABHU : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) the manner in which increase in taxes to restrain conspicuous spending can be effected without reducing the marginal consumers who are trying to raise their standard of living;

(b) whether such an increase in taxes will not lead to further idle capacity, which will create more unemployment; and

(c) if so, whether it will not be unconstitutional to increase tax on land values in urban areas, without including all owners, including the small ones, which will have the result of further increasing rents?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI P. C. SETHI) : (a) Taxes levied to restrain conspicuous spending do not have any impact on low income groups.