

Custodian of Enemy Property

*446. SHRI KALYAN ROY:
SHRI S. KUMARAN:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND CIVIL SUPPLIES AND CO-OPERATION be pleased to state:

(a) at what place is the Head Office of the Custodian of Enemy Property located;

(b) whether Government propose to shift the Head Office to Calcutta in view of the large number of applications for compensation from Indian citizens and refugees from the erstwhile East Pakistan areas; if not, what are the reasons therefor-

(c) whether any branch office has been opened at Calcutta;

(d) if so, when and what is the strength of staff and what is the number of judges who are deciding these cases;

(e) what is the number of cases of Indian citizens and refugees of erstwhile East Pakistan and West Pakistan (i) which have been settled so far; and (ii) which are still pending; and

(f) what steps Government have taken to expedite settlement of pending cases and with what results?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE, CIVIL SUPPLIES AND COOPERATION (SHRI ARIF BAIG): (a) to (f) A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

(e) The requisite information is being collected and will be placed on the Table of the House.

Statement

The Office of the Custodian of Enemy Property is located at Bombay. Though the Head Office of the Custodian will be at Bombay, a Branch Office has been opened at Calcutta in view of the large number of applications for compensation, received from the refugees from the erstwhile East

Pakistan (Bangladesh areas). The panel for verification of claims consists of three members and the other staff consists of four officials. The Government has opened an Office at Calcutta with a view to expedite the settlement of outstanding cases. The Custodian has been asked to expedite the matters concerning infirm people, widows, orphans and also such cases where small amount is involved and the necessary action has been taken to strengthen the machinery.

Reduction in Excise duty of sugar

*447. SHRI BHOLA PRASAD: SHRI S. KUMARAN-SHRI LAKSHMANA MAHA-PATRO:

Will the Minister of FINANCE AND REVENUE AND BANKING be pleased to state:

(a) what is the estimated annual loss of revenue to the exchequer as a result of the recent reduction of basic excise duty on sugar; and

(b) whether the retail price of free sugar has been showing any declining trend following this step; and if so, to what extent?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE AND REVENUE AND BANKING (SHRI H. M. PATEL): (a) The loss of revenue to the exchequer as a result of the recent reduction of basic excise duty on sugar would depend largely upon the extent to which the off-take of free sale sugar increases as a result of the decrease in its price to the consumer consequent upon the reduction in excise duty. The free sale sugar off-take is expected to increase to a quantity somewhere between 13 lakhs tonnes and 16 lakhs tonnes and on this basis the annual loss of revenue would vary between Rs. 37 crores and Rs. 13 crores respectively.

(b) It is too early to evaluate the effect of the reduction in excise duty on the retail prices, as there is usually a time lag between the duty reduc-