

Searches at the Palaces of Former Princely Houses of Jaipur

*39. SHRI GUNANAN THAKUR :
SHRIMATI LAKSHMI KUMARI
CHUNDAWAT :
SHRI SAWAISINGH SISODIA :
SHRI MAHENDRA BAHADUR
SINGH :
SHRI KALP NATH :

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Income tax/Customs authorities have completed the searches at the palaces belonging to the former princely houses of Jaipur;

(b) if so, the details of the outcome of the searches made; and

(c) the action Government propose to take in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE) : (a) Searches are still continuing.

(b) and (c) A statement containing the requisite information is laid on the Table of the House. [See Appendix XCII. Annexure No. 2]

Development of Tourist Sports in Vidharbha

*40. SHRI S. W. DHABE : Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is any proposal for the development of tourist spots in Vidharbha area of Maharashtra State, such as, Kalidas Memorial at Ramtek, Chikhaldora and Tadoba forest in Chandrapur District; and

(b) if so, what steps have been taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SURENDRA PAL-

SINGH) : (a) No specific proposal in this regard has been received from the Maharashtra Government.

(b) Does not arise.

Payment to migrants from East Pakistan (now Bangladesh)

*41. SHRI P. N. BISI :
SHRI KALI MUKHERJEE :
SHRI N. R. CHOUDHURY :
SHRI K. B. CHETTRI :
SHRI NABIN CHANDRA BURAGOHAIN :

Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that payment to Bangalees of East Bengal (now Bangladesh) has been held up, even when the panel constituted by the Custodian of Enemy Property has approved certain payments;

(b) whether it is also a fact that the "Custodian or Director of Enemy Property" has over hundred crores of rupees to pay to Indian citizens who have lost their properties in East Pakistan (now Bangladesh);

(c) what is the total amount of compensation that has already been paid to persons coming from erstwhile East Pakistan (now Bangladesh) from the above fund and how much of that has gone to Bengalee refugees; and

(d) when the payments will be made for cases already approved by the panel constituted for this purpose?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (PROF. D. P. CHATTOPADHYAYA) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Claims are only classified according as they relate to former East Pakistan (now Bangladesh) or West Pakistan. These claims relate of companies, firms, individuals, etc. Ex-gratia grants to the

tune of Rs. 3,01,50,000 have been made from the consolidated Fund of India in respect of claims relating to erstwhile East Pakistan.

(d) Every effort is being made to settle these claims as early as possible.

Searches of Lockers of India Safe Deposit Vault Co. Ltd.

***42. SHRI RABI RAY :** will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) Whether it is a fact that Gold Control Officers of the Calcutta and Orissa Collectorates of Central Excise have recently searched a number of lockers of India Safe Deposit Vault Company Ltd.; and

(b) If so, what are the details in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE) : (a) Gold Control Officers of Calcutta and Orissa Collectorate of Central Excise searched a number of lockers of India Safe Deposit Vault Company Ltd., Calcutta during February-March, 1975.

(b) Diamonds, precious stones and studded jewellery which have now been valued at about Rs. 1 crore and 9 lakhs were seized under the Customs Act. Gold and gold ornaments valued at over Rs. 7 lakhs were seized under the Gold (Control) Act. Share certificates, bank deposit receipts, Indian currency, National Savings Certificates etc. valued at about Rs. 4.7 lakhs besides some documents were seized under the Income-tax Act.

Seven persons were arrested under Gold (Control) Act./Customs Act. Investigation is in progress and records are being examined for the purpose of proceeding with Departmental adjudication and filing of complaints in court of law.

Rubber prices

***43. SHRIMATI PRATIBHA SINGH :**
SHRIMATI SUSHILA SHANKAR
ADIVAREKAR :

SHRIMATI RATHNABAI SREENIVASA RAO :

SHRIMATI SARASWATI PRADHAN :

Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that the rubber goods manufacturers have been pressing for supply of indigenous rubber at International prices and if so, whether Government have under their consideration any scheme for making supplies of indigenous rubber to manufacturers at international prices, which are lower than the domestic floor prices of raw rubber ;

(b) if so, the details of the scheme evolved in this regard ; and

(c) how far the prices of indigenous rubber will have to be subsidised under the contemplated scheme and how the expenditure involved on subsidies is proposed to be realised ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI VISHWANATH PRATAP SINGH) : (a) to (c) The rubber goods manufacturers have represented to Government to supply natural rubber to them at international prices for export production purposes. Government are examining the relevant rubber content and costing aspects to assess the need and quantum of relief, if any is warranted.

Cotton export policy

***44. SHRI DEORAO PATIL :** Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have taken any decision to export cotton during the current year ; and

(b) if so, what are the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (PROF. D. P. CHATTOPADHYAYA) :