

Poonch & Rajauri Sector are being viewed as Prisoners of War as they are members of the Pakistani Army.

(b) According to the Geneva Convention, members of regular armed forces, whenever captured, are to be treated as Prisoners of War. Such infiltrators as are not members of regular armed forces, or did not conduct their operations in accordance with the laws and customs of war, are not required to be treated as Prisoners of War]

THREATENED RETRENCHMENT OF INDIAN EMPLOYEES OF A. I. D.

*207. SHRI A. G. KULKARNI : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government are aware that a number of Indian citizens are working in the A. I. D. Office of the U. S. Embassy in Delhi and other places in the country;

(b) whether as a result of stoppage of U. S. aid to India, Indian employees in the A. I. D. offices are threatened with impending retrenchment; and,

(c) if so, what steps Government propose to take in this regard with a view to getting them alternative employment ?

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

(b) The Government of India and the U. S. Government have agreed that a large USAID establishment in India is no longer necessary. As a result of this approach retrenchment of USAID staff is likely to take place and the Government is aware that the Indian employees of USAID will also be affected.

(c) Although the Government is always anxious to increase employment opportunities and will try to help in this case also, they do not regard the provision of alternative employment to retrenched A. I. D. employees as their direct responsibility.

EFFECT OF STOPPAGE OF U. S. AID ON RAW MATERIAL SUPPLIES

*208. SHRI SANAT KUMAR RAHA : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the suspension of U. S. aid has adversely affected the supply of raw materials in the country; if so, to what extent; and

(b) the steps taken by Government to meet the situation ?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI Y. B. CHAVAN) : (a) and (b) Steps have been taken to ensure that the supply of raw materials in the country is not affected on account of the suspension of the U. S. aid. These include mainly augmenting indigenous production, intensification of import substitution and increasing exports. To the extent that imports are inescapable alternative sources of supply under other credits and from rupee payment areas are being located, and where this is not possible, allocation of free foreign exchange is being made to the extent possible.

CULTIVATION OF GANJA.

518. SHRI SASANKASEKHAR SANYAL : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) the names of the States in which Ganja is cultivated;

(b) what is the area of such cultivation in each State;

(c) how much of it is exported; and

(d) the average annual foreign exchange earned therefrom ?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI Y. B. CHAVAN) : (a) Ganja is cultivated in the States of Bihar, Madhya Pradesh, Orissa and West Bengal.

(b) The area under ganja cultivation state-wise during the last three years is given below:—

Name of State	Area under ganja cultivation in hectares		
	1969	1970	1971
Bihar	52	34	35
Madhya Pradesh	32	75	40
Orissa.	29	24	26
West Bengal.	40	49	62

(c) There has been no demand for Indian ganja in foreign countries and hence no exports have been made.

(d) Does not arise.

COLLECTION OF TAXES IN WEST BENGAL

519. SHRI SASANKASEKHAR SANYAL :

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :