

(a) whether the Government of India have taken any decision about several thousands dummy employees of the General Insurance Companies which have now been nationalised;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) whether the attention of Government in this regard has been drawn to a report in the Times of India of 12th June, 1971 and if so, reaction of Government thereto?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE]

(SMT. SUSHILA ROHATGI): (a) to (c) Government has seen the Press Report in the Times of India of 12th June, 1971 referred to in the question. There is no evidence to indicate that the malpractice is of the order mentioned by the Hon'ble Members.

In the meeting of the Custodians of General Insurance Companies held on July, 6, 1971, the entire question was discussed at some length. The Finance Minister has also stated in his opening remarks at the meeting that this evil will have to be rooted out completely. The Custodians have been asked to look into this matter expeditiously.

FINANCE MINISTER'S VISIT TO AKLUJ IN SHOLAPUR DISTRICT OF MAHARASHTRA

641. DR. B. N. ANTANI: SHRI K. C. PANDA: SHRI SUNDAR MANI PATEL:

Will the Minister of FINANCE]

be please^ to state:

(a) whether he visited Akluj in Sholapur District in Maharashtra on May 17, 1971;

(b) whether the visit was an official Or private one; and

(c) from what source the expenditure for the journey was met?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE)

(SHRI Y. B. CHAVAN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Finance Minister addressed the Annual Conference of Marathi Journalists at Parshuram, District Ratnagiri on the 16th May, 1971. In continuation of this programme, the Finance Minister also visited Akluj in Sholapur District. During this visit he performed the opening ceremonies of the new office building of a cooperative sugar factory and the newly constructed houses for scavengers b'y the village panchayat, unveiling of statues of Dr. Ambedkar and Chatarpati Shivaji, saw the work of the Rajhuns Poultry Centre, and addressed a public meeting. The visit of the Finance Minister was official.

(c) Cost of his air ticket from Delhi to Bombay and back was borne by the Central Government and arrangements for his transport in Maharashtra State were made by the Maharashtra Government. The Finance Minister does not draw any daily allowance on his tours in the country.

तत्कर वस्तुओं की गिरफ्तार:

642. श्री सुरज प्रसाद : क्या वित्त मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) पिछले एक वर्ष में दिल्ली, कलकत्ता, बम्बई और मद्रास से कितने मूल्य का सोना, चाँदी, शराब और गांजा पकड़ा गया ; और

(ख) इस सम्बन्ध में कितने विदेशी और भारतीय पकड़े गये हैं और उनके विरुद्ध क्या कार्रवाई की गई है ?

ARREST OF SMUGGLERS

C42. SHRI SURAJ PRASAD; Will the Minister of FINANCE] farT'TSU be pleased to state:

(a) the value of gold, silver, wine and hashish seized in Delhi, Calcutta,'

t[] English translation.