

as a result of the recent relaxation in 'P' Form regulations; and

(b) if so, what steps Government propose to take to curb this tendency ?

THE MINISTER OF REVENUE AND EXPENDITURE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI VIDYA CHARAN SHUKLA) : (a) All authorised foreign exchange transactions of the country are carried at rates which are within the permissible range of one percent of the par value of Indian rupee. The official par value has remained unchanged at 13.33 U.S. cents per rupee since the devaluation in June, 1966. The transactions in contravention of the Foreign Exchange Regulations may occur at rates different from the official rates. These transactions are inherently illegal and limited in character. It will not be correct to establish a direct relationship between these illegal transactions with the recent relaxations in 'P' Form Regulations.

(b) Does not arise.

FOREIGN BANKS

1127. SHRI K. L. N. PRASAD : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that the Reserve Bank of India has recently issued instructions to all foreign banks operating in India to obtain its prior approval to the proposals for employment of foreign nationals in those banks;

(b) if so, what is the total number of foreign nationals working in the foreign banks operating in India at present;

(c) whether it is a fact that the Reserve Bank proposes to adopt other measures by which the number of non-Indians employed in the Higher income bracket in these banks is reduced; and

(d) if so, what are the details of these other measures proposed by the Reserve Bank of India; and by when these measures are going to be enforced ?

THE MINISTER OF REVENUE AND EXPENDITURE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI VIDYA CHARAN SHUKLA) : (a) In order to have an effective control over the Indianisation of staff by foreign banks, the Reserve Bank of India advised in November, 1968, all the authorised foreign exchange to obtain prior sanction of the Reserve Bank before engaging any foreign national. This restriction applies to all banks in India including branches of foreign banks.

(b) According to information collected by the Reserve Bank, there were 150 foreign nationals working in the branches of foreign banks operating in India on the 31st March, 1970.

(c) and (d) Government's policy is to progressively reduce the number of foreigners in superior posts which do not require any special technical expertise not available in the country. With a view to bringing about an acceleration in the pace of indian-

of staff, the foreign banks were asked by the Reserve Bank individually to take early steps in this direction and to the Reserve Bank their programme of Indianisation of staff. The question of further steps to be taken for reducing the number of foreign nationals is under consideration of the Reserve Bank.

STEPS AGAINST SMUGGLING

1128. SHRI K. L. N. PRASAD : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that smuggling on a very big scale in the past few years has become a threat to the developing economy of the country;

(b) if so, whether it is also a fact that the smuggling besides upsetting normal trade has threatened many industries in the country; and whether it continues to flourish despite controls and official vigilance;

(c) if so, what are the other steps besides the steps taken so far which Government propose to adopt to tackle this problem of large scale smuggling;

(d) whether it is a fact that Indian smugglers are backed by international gangs; and

(e) if so, whether the Government of India have approached the foreign countries for their co-operation in checking the large scale smuggling to this country ?

THE MINISTER OF REVENUE AND EXPENDITURE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI VIDYA CHARAN SHUKLA) : (a) There is no reliable data before the Government to indicate that smuggling has become a threat to the developing economy of the country.

(b) No threat to indigenous industries from smuggling has come to Government's notice. It is true, however, that smuggling continues despite official vigilance.

(c) The following steps have been taken to prevent smuggling of contraband goods Systematic collection and follow-up of

information, keeping a watchful eye on the suspected smugglers, rummaging of suspected vessels by aircraft and patrolling of vulnerable sectors along the coast and the land frontiers. Customs Act, 1962 has been amended making additional provisions to take special measures for the purpose of checking illegal import and export of certain commodities and facilitating their detection. Senior officers of the rank of Collectors of Customs and Excise. Collectors of Customs have been empowered to look after anti-smuggling work exclusively. Steps for increasing the anti-smuggling staff are under consideration. These measures are kept constantly under review.

(d) Some Indian smugglers have their connections with international gangs.

(e) The assistance of foreign countries and international agencies is taken whenever necessary, if reliable evidence of complicity in an offence in a foreign country is available.

SHORTAGE OF DRINKING WATER IN INDORE, BHOPAL AND MHOW

1129. SHRI NAND KISHORE BHATT : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY PLANNING AND WORKS, HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government of India are aware of the distress of the residents of some big cities of Madhya Pradesh notably Indore, Bhopal and Mhow regarding the shortage of drinking water and the resultant widespread restlessness and agitation in these cities;

(b) if so, whether the Government of India Madhya Pradesh had approached the Central Government for necessary assistance; and

(c) if so, what is the reaction of Central Government in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY PLANNING AND WORKS, HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI B. S. MURTHY) : (a) to (c) Information is being collected from the State Government and will be laid on the Table of the Sabha when received.

COPPER DEPOSITS IN BALAGHAT DISTRICT IN MADHYA PRADESH

1130. SHRI NAND KISHORE BHATT : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS AND MINES AND METALS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government of India are aware of the recent find of high grade

copper deposits in Balaghat District of Madhya Pradesh; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and whether the Government of Madhya Pradesh has sought any assistance from the Centre for further exploration or technical assistance?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS AND MINES AND METALS (SHRI NITIRAJ SINGH CHAUDHARY) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. As a result of investigations carried out by the Geological Survey of India, copper mineralization has been intersected in a number of boreholes over a strike length of 500 metres in the Malanjhand area of Balaghat District in Madhya Pradesh. As exploration work is in preliminary stage, the reserve and grade of the deposits will be estimated on completion of the work.

The work in the area is being done by the Geological Survey of India and therefore the question of the Madhya Pradesh Government seeking any technical assistance for the exploration does not arise.

OVERTIME ALLOWANCE

1131. SHRI SYED HUSSAIN : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to refer to the reply to Unstarred Question No. 553 given in the Rajya Sabha on the 3rd March, 1970 and state :

(a) whether it is a fact that even regular ministerial staff, other than Resident (Night duty) Clerks and Class IV staff are paid at the rate of Rs. 3/- and Rs. 1.25/- per night respectively as they are made to sit for whole night due to heavy parliamentary work; and

(b) whether it is also a fact that no overtime allowance is paid for the first hour after duty although work during this hour also is taken from the staff, and if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF REVENUE AND EXPENDITURE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI VIDYA CHARAN SHUKLA) : (a) No, Sir. When Government employees, other than Parliament Assistants (who are entitled to a special allowance per month during the sessions of Parliament), are detained for Parliamentary work etc. which cannot be postponed till the next