

(c) what is the highest amount drawn by any one employee during any one month and which particular department or section paid the same?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JAGANNATH PAHADIA): (a) The required information in respect of all employees serving in Central Government offices all over India is not readily available and it is considered that the time and labour involved in collecting such information will not be commensurate with the result to be achieved. The amount of overtime allowance paid to Office staff employed in the Central Secretariat, for the twelve months ending May, 1967, Was Rs. 32,05,616.

(b) and (c). The information is being collected in respect of the Central Secretariat and will be laid on the Table of the House, as soon as available.

SHRI ABID ALI: Madam, at some stage it should be possible for the hon. Minister to find out how much overtime allowance was paid during the last financial year. Is it not a fact that, since this system was introduced, work during the normal office hours has considerably become less and that it is being kept pending for overtime purposes?

SHRI MORARJI R. DESAI: That is true in some cases, but not in all cases.

SHRI ABID ALI: Is it not a fact that proportionately the personal staff of Ministers *per capita* are paid more overtime allowance as compared with other staff?

SHRI MORARJI R. DESAI: In the case of Ministers' staff the limit is 50 per cent and in the case of others it is 33 per cent.

SHRI D. THENGARI: May I know whether the Government has examined, in the case of departments of the Central Secretariat where overtime

allowance is paid substantially, if it would be more economic to recruit more hands, rather than pay overtime allowance? Has this issue been examined in each department?

SHRI MORARJI R. DESAI: The examination by the Administrative Reforms Commission is going on. At all there is a good case for a reduction and not for any increase.

CONTRABAND GOLD SEIZED FROM BOAC PLANE

*37. SHRI Y. ADINARAYANA REDDY: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) what action has been taken by Government with regard to the Contraband gold seized from the BOAC plane at Palam on 15th September, 1967;

(b) whether it is a fact that the BOAC gave the name of a fictitious company, namely, the Companhia de-Desenvoliments Commercial, Macao as the company to whom the gold was meant to be delivered; and

1 (c) if so, whether Government have verified the existence of this company?

THE DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER AND MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI MORARJI R. DESAI): (a) The seized gold weighing 1218-6 Kg. has been confiscated under the Customs Act, 1962, by the Collector of Customs and Central Excise, New Delhi. Considering that the gold was in transit through India the Collector has permitted the gold to be redeemed on payment of a fine of Rs. 25,25,000 in lieu of confiscation and on production of a written permission from the Reserve Bank of India. A personal penalty of Rs. 5,00,000 has also been imposed on I M/s. B.O.A.C. The aircraft has been confiscated and allowed to be redeemed on payment of a fine of Rs. 10,00,000 in lieu of confiscation.

(b) and (c). Messrs. B.O.A.C. acted as the carriers of the goods. The gold

in question was consigned by the firm of Messrs. Mocatta and Goldsmid Ltd., London and from some documents filed by this firm before the Bank of England, the copies of which documents were secured in India during the course of investigation, it transpired that the gold was meant for Messrs. Companhia de-Desenvolvimento Commercial, - Macau. The B.O.A.C. flight which carried the gold was to touch Hong Kong before terminating in Tokyo and the airways bill of the air company showed that the gold was consigned to Hong Kong in transit to Macau.

A copy of the show-cause notice sent to the Macau firm through the medium of post was received back undelivered. This alone does not, however, establish or contradict the possibility that the Macau firm is a fictitious concern.

SHRI Y. ADINARAYANA REDDY: May I know from the hon. Minister whether it is a fact that the British Government has claimed the entire gold now that the firm has been found to be fictitious?

SHRI MORARJI R. DESAI: The British Government has not claimed the gold as belonging to them.

श्री गोडे मुराहरि : मैं यह जानना चाहता हूँ कि क्या यह सही नहीं है कि बी० ए० सी० इस तरह की स्मगलिंग करते रहता है और उनका जो मैन्युअल है उसमें एक क्लॉज ऐसा है जो स्मगलिंग को सम्पत्ती की दृष्टि में बाह्यदाता बनाता है। इनलिफे मैं यह जानना चाहता हूँ कि क्या सरकार यह उचित नहीं समझती कि बी० ए० सी० की जा नबित है उसको बन्द कर दिया जाय या फिर कोई ऐसी कार्यवाही करे ताकि जो स्मगलिंग उनकी तरफ से चल रही है वह बन्द हो जाय ?

श्री मोरारजी आर० देसाई : माननीय सदस्य का यह कहना कि बी० ए० सी०

हैबिच्युअल स्मगलिंग करता है उसके लिये उन्होंने कोई सबूत नहीं दिया।

श्री गोडे मुराहरि : यह तो उनके मैन्युअल में है।

श्री मोरारजी आर० देसाई : हमारे पास ऐसा सबूत नहीं है। इसलिये इस तरह की कार्यवाही करना हमारे लिये मुमकिन नहीं है। आखिर जो यह होता है वह कंटीज के म्युचुअल अरेंजमेंट पर होता है कि कौनसी एयर लाइन्स कहां जाय। अगर हम कोई दूसरी बात कर बैठे तो उसमें नुकसान सब का होता है। सिर्फ उनको ही नहीं होता है।

SULPHURIC ACID PLANT AT SINDRI

*38. SHRI M. M. DHARIA:† SHRI A. G. KULKARNI:

Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS be pleased to state:

(a) the progress made so far in the construction of Sulphuric Acid Plant at Sindri;

(b) whether the plant will be ready for trial run by the end of this year as decided earlier; and

(c) if not, what are the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS AND OF SOCIAL WELFARE (SHRI K. RAGHU-RAMIAH): (a) The progress is being maintained in accordance with the time schedule.

(b) Yes, Madam.

(c) Does not arise.

SHRI A. G. KULKARNI: May I know from the Government whether it is a fact that the progress in the manufacture of sulphuric acid at Sindri is exceedingly slow? As you know,

†The question was actually asked on the floor of the House by Shri M. M. Dharia.