

(b) the names of the firms from whom these filter elements were purchased during the past five years and the rate at which they were purchased;

(c) whether it is also a fact that the Commission has a proposal to enter into rate contract for supply of these filter elements; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS AND OF SOCIAL WELFARE (SHRI K. RAGHURAMAIAH): (a) 6,000 pieces per annum approximately.

(b) This item was imported till 1967, after which indigenous availability was established. Information regarding purchases made in 1967 from Indian firms is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the Sabha in due course.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) Open tenders have been invited by the Commission. Rate contract will be placed on the cheapest supplier consistent with requisite technical standards.

SEMINAR ON TAXATION

♦419. SARDAR RAM SINGH: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that at a Seminar on taxation held recently at Delhi it was suggested that tax rates should be reduced at places where development was necessary;

(b) whether the Seminar has also suggested the setting up of a Commission for a fresh and comprehensive enquiry into basic tax policies; and

(c) if so, the reaction of Government to the recommendations made at the Seminar?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI K. C. PANT): (a) and (b) According to Press Reports, the seminar on taxation

which was organised by the Institute of Chartered Accountants in January, 1968, is reported to have recommended the appointment of a Taxation Enquiry Commission, besides making certain other recommendations. However, Government have not so far received any communication from the Institute in this behalf.

(c) Does not arise.

PEACE CORPS MEN FROM U.K. FOR FAMILY PLANNING

*420. DR. (MRS.) MANGLADEVI TALWAR: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have sought the help of the Government of U. K. for more Peace Corps men to work in Indian Villages for Family Planning; and

(b) if so, the reaction of the U. K. Government thereto?

THE DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER AND MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI ♦MORARJI R. DESAI): (a) At present there are no British Volunteers engaged in family planning work in India. However, the possibility of obtaining such assistance is under discussion with the British Government.

(b) The matter is still under consideration but their preliminary reaction is that the volunteer programme may be better suited for ancillary work in family planning rather than for direct medical work. For the latter the possibility of using British technical assistance under the Colombo Plan is being examined.

ACTION AGAINST A COLONIZER IN THE CAPITAL

♦421. CHAUDHARY A. MOHAMMAD: Will the Minister of HEALTH, FAMILY PLANNING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to refer to the answer to Unstarred Question No.,

980 given in "the Rajya Sabha on 16th August, 1967 and state:

(a) whether it is a 'act that the police carried out a search in the premises of the Swatantra Land and Finance (Private) Ltd., Connaught Place, New Delhi on the 1st of December, 1967 and seized some records; and

(b) if so, whether a representation in this regard has been received from the Indraprastha Plot Holders Association against the company and if so, the action taken by the Government in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH, FAMILY PLANNING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI SATYA-NARAYAN SINHA): (a) Yes, Sir

(b) Yes, Sir. Delhi Administration are investigating the matter in consultation with the Government of Har-yana.

INCOME-TAX ASSESSMENT

*422. SHRI BANKA BEHARY DAS: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether experts from America or any other foreign country have been invited by Government to simplify the prevailing procedure regarding In come-tax assessment; and

(b) if so, what is their advice regard ing the assessment and also regarding the settlement of cases involving heavy arrears?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI K. C. PANT): (a) Yes, Sir. Experts from America have been invited by Government to study our Tax Administration and to make suggestions to improve its efficiency;

(b) Their advice is, firstly to separate the functions of Administration, Assessments and Collection amongst three categories of officers called Income-tax Officer—Administration, In-

come-tax Officers—Assessments, and Income-tax Officer—Collection, so that each function receives fullest attention. As regards assessments, their further view is that all cases should be sub-divided into big and small (called priarmy) cases. Big cases should be assigned for purposes of assessment to senior Income-tax Officers, as far as possible, and small cases to junior officers. This is suggested to facilitate maximum utilisation of varying standards of experience of Income-tax Officers.

It is also suggested by them that assessment in small income cases should be made in a summary manner, so that more time could be devoted to the bigger cases.

They have not given any advice *e-garding settlement of case, involving heavy arrears.

SCARCITY OF KEROSENE IN MAHARASHTRA

*423. SHRI B. D. KHOBARAGADE: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that during the last few months, there was great shortage of Kerosene in Maharashtra and as a result of which the Govern ment of Maharashtra had requested the Central Government to increase the supply of Kerosene to that State;

(b) whether it is also a fact that in spite of such acute shortage, Shiv Sena volunteers were selling Kerosene in large quantity in Bombay;

(c) if so, what are the circumstances under which the Shiv Sena could sell Kerosene in large quantities; and

(d) what steps Government propose to take to supply adequate quantity of Kerosene to Maharashtra?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS AND SOCIAL WELFARE (SHRI ASOKA MEHTA): (a) During December, 1967 and January, 1968 shortage of kerosene oil was