

SHRI SACHINDRA CHAUDHURY: The total figure of the entire amount can be collected, but if you ask for business houses, then we must know which are business houses.

SHRIMATI TARA RAMCHANDRA SATHE: May I know whether in respect of gold ornaments subscribed to the Defence Fund the subscriber gets a receipt in which the gross weight and net weight are mentioned? May I know how the net weight of an ornament is determined on the spot? Is there any machine or method available to test its purity then and there?

SHRI SACHINDRA CHAUDHURI: There are examinations conducted by the Mint. As I have already stated, there are means of finding out the net weight and fineness of gold in the Mint.

SHRIMATI TARA RAMCHANDRA SATHE: On the spot the receipt is given where the gross weight as well as the net weight is written. How is that tested on the spot? That is what I want to know.

SHRI SACHINDRA CHAUDHURI: I am afraid I cannot answer that question because I did not know that it was given at the time when the gold ornament was presented.

SHRIMATI TARA RAMCHANDRA SATHE: Not for the Bond but for the Fund.

SHRI SACHINDRA CHAUDHURI: For the gold ornament given, it is suggested that in the receipt the net weight is given. Without having a receipt before me it is difficult for me to say whether gross weight or net weight is given. There may be strings and so on in the ornament.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Next question.

ASSESSMENT OF INCOME-TAX IN ORISSA

•41. SHRI S. SUPAKAR: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state the number of cases of assess-

ment of income-tax pending in the State of Orissa for more than (i) six months and (ii) one year?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI B. R. BHAGAT): The information asked on the 31st of December, 1965 was as under:—

- (i) Cases pending for more than six months but less than one year—6325.
- (ii) Cases pending for more than one year—17417.

SHRI S. SUPAKAR: May I know if the Government have worked out the economics of having a separate Circle of income-tax for the State of Orissa compared to its present status of being tagged on to the tail end of the Bihar and Orissa Income-tax Circle, and, secondly, whether it is due to this fact that there is so much accumulation of cases regarding arrears of income-tax?

SHRI B. R. BHAGAT: The accumulation of arrears has nothing to do with the circle because even in a circle—both Bihar and Orissa are one circle—the adequacy of officers is what is important. It is true that the arrears are there because there is the paucity of staff, because in the last few years although the total revenue has gone up to Rs. 2,000 crores, almost ten times more, the staff has increased only a little. So, we are going to recruit more staff. We have already sanctioned more appellate staff and it is that which will bring down the arrears and not the change in the circles.

SHRI S. SUPAKAR: Is it not a fact that as compared with other States or other circles, the number of staff for the State of Orissa is more inadequate?

SHRI B. R. BHAGAT: No, Sir, that is not a fact.

SHRI M. R. SHERVANI: Is the Government aware of the fact that I income-tax assessment per income-tax officer in the United Kingdom is three times of that in India. Because of the cumbersome procedure here, the number of cases has gone up. The j staff has to be increased. But is the Government considering improving the procedure and changing the rules so that the assessment may become easier and quicker?

SHRI B. R. BHAGAT: The conditions in the two countries are different. We have recently sent out a team to study the conditions in the United Kingdom and the United States of America and to see to what extent we can adopt them here. But the conditions are so different that it is difficult to adopt the same practice. But even then we are trying to do our best. It is a continuing process—how to improve the procedure, how to simplify it and how to expedite the assessment.

SHRI LOKANATH MISRA: May I know what are the criteria for the creation of a Commissioner's Office for a particular State, whether Orissa justifies all those criteria and whether those criteria have been strictly adhered to in creating Commissioner's posts in all the different States?

SHRI B. R. BHAGAT: Obviously, Orissa by itself does not form a circle; it does not subscribe to all those criteria. By and large, the criteria are the amount of revenue, the viability of the circle, etc., etc.

SHRI M. M. DHARI A: Is the hon. Minister aware that along with the simplification of the procedure, the approach of the income-tax officers towards the assessee is also material? Even though under the Indian Penal Code the criminal is taken to be innocent until the guilt is proved, here when the assessee goes before the income-tax officer, he is treated to be a dishonest person and that is why all the scrutiny comes in and I

that is one of the reasons for this major delay.

SHRI B. R. BHAGAT: That may be so, Sir. But we can tackle this question if we identify the individual officers who are doing like that. The instructions are that they have to be treated fairly.

SHRI SANTOKH SINGH: Is it a fact that the Income-tax Department calls for assessment cases involving good profits if the money is to come to the Government immediately, while the cases where there is a loss are kept pending for four or five years, especially if the Government has got to give back some money to the parties who have made advance payments?

SHRI B. R. BHAGAT: We have issued instructions that even in cases of refund, we should do it with the utmost expedition. It is an individual matter. If he brings to my notice any such case, I will take action on that.

SEIZURE OF GOLD AND SILVER

*42. SHRI N. SRI RAMA REDDY: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state the total quantity of gold and silver seized by the Customs authorities and Income-tax Department during 1965?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI B. R. BHAGAT): The information is being collected and it will be placed on the Table of the House as early as possible.

SHRI LOKANATH MISRA: May I know whether there was a research conducted in Calcutta during the last three months and from a particular premises in Lord Sinha Street the Customs Department has seized some gold and some Rs. 50 lakhs of unaccounted money?

SHRI B. R. BHAGAT: Well, I take that information. It is not available.