

(b) The restriction on the import of currency was imposed from December, 1959 in order to bring this limit into line with that fixed for export of Indian currency. It has, however, reduced to some extent the possibility of smuggling in of notes forged abroad. The introduction of a special note issue in the Persian Gulf Area, the training of customs and police officials in the detection of forged notes, and the systematic investigation by the police of all cases involving forged notes are among the other steps which have been taken by Government.

STRIKE BY CENTRAL GOVERNMENT EMPLOYEES

*142. SHRI J. H. JOSHI: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of Central Government employees in each Ministry or Department who went on strike which commenced on the night of 11-12th July, 1960;

(b) the total loss of revenue to Government on account of the strike; and

(c) what action Government have taken against the strikers?

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI GOVIND BALLABH PANT): (a) Ministrywise and Departmentwise figures of the number of persons, who went on strike, are not available. These are being compiled and will be laid on the Table of the House.

(b) About Rs. 4 crores, according to the information so far available.

(c) Disciplinary action is being taken against some of the employees who went on strike. Employees who have committed criminal offences are being prosecuted in courts of law.

AMALGAMATION OF COLLIERIES

*143. SHRI RATANLAL KISHORILAL MALVIYA: Will the Minister

of STEEL, MINES AND FUEL be pleased to state:

(a) what is the progress made so far in the matter of amalgamation of small collieries; and

(b) by when Government are likely to complete such amalgamation?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL, MINES AND FUEL (SARDAR SWARAN SINGH): (a) A Bill to provide for compulsory amalgamation has been drafted and is at present under consideration. Meanwhile a committee has been set up to promote voluntary amalgamation. This committee has so far approved 29 proposals involving 56 small collieries. Out of these, amalgamation has taken place in 14 cases.

(b) No firm date can be given at this stage.

SUICIDES BY JUMPING FROM QUTAB MINAR IN DELHI

*144. SHRI HARIHAR PATEL: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of persons who committed suicides by jumping from the Qutab Minar in Delhi during the years 1957, 1958, 1959 and so far in 1960; and

(b) whether Government are taking any steps to prevent loss of lives by such fatal jumps from the Minar?

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI GOVIND BALLABH PANT):

(a) 1957	1
1958	2
1959	1
1960 (up to 30-7-60)	4

(b) As a precautionary measure, no visitor is allowed to go up the Qutab Minar unless he is accompanied by at least two persons. A watchman and a Police Constable are posted at the entrance to the Minar to ensure that this is observed. The entrance to the Minar is closed to all visitors between sun-set and sun-rise.