

SHRI B. N. DATAR: Sir, so far as the present investigation is concerned, it is very difficult to say that foreigners are involved.

DR. D. H. VARIAVA: Certain persons were arrested in this connection and from the investigations, has it been found that they are guilty or not? Are they still under arrest or on bail?

SHRI B. N. DATAR: Four persons are under arrest and three persons have been detained.

SHRI D. A. MIRZA: What are the confessions made by the four arrested persons?

SHRI B. N. DATAR: Sir, it is not proper to disclose the confessions at this stage.

GENERAL ELECTIONS, 1957

*49. SHRI MAHESWAR NAIK: Will the Minister for LAW be pleased to state:

(a) the total amount of expenditure incurred on the General Elections held this year in India;

(b) the number of political parties which participated in this election; and

(c) the number of voters that exercised their franchise as against the total number eligible?

THE MINISTER FOR LAW (SHRI A. K. SEN): (a) and (c). Complete information is not yet available.

(b) Four recognised All-India political parties and twelve recognised State political parties participated in the recent General Elections. Many unrecognised parties also set up candidates. The number of such parties is being ascertained by the Election Commission but complete information is not yet available.

SHRI MAHESWAR NAIK: May I know how many parties applied for

recognition and how only four were recognised?

SHRI A. K. SEN: It is difficult, Sir, without further notice to answer that question, but I have here a list of parties who have been recognised both for the Central as well as for the different State elections.

DR. P. C. MITRA: May I know, Sir, how much earnest money deposited by the candidates was forfeited to Government?

MR. CHAIRMAN: The answer says: "Complete information is not yet available."

SHRI A. K. SEN: It is not yet available.

SHRI P. S. RAJAGOPAL NAIDU: What is the estimated expenditure for conducting the General Elections?

SHRI A. K. SEN: Complete figures are not yet available.

SHRI P. S. RAJAGOPAL NAIDU: May I know, Sir, whether estimates had been prepared before the General Elections were conducted and, if so, what is estimated expenditure?

SHRI A. K. SEN: It is outside the question.

SHRI MAHESWAR NAIK: Has it come to the notice of the Government that a large number of voters were not included in the electoral rolls in the last General Elections as a result of which they were deprived of their right of franchise and, if so, what action has Government taken?

SHRI A. K. SEN: This does not relate to the question.

PROFIT FROM THE EXPORT OF OPIUM

*50. SHRI DEOKINANDAN NARAYAN: Will the Minister for FINANCE be pleased to state the profit earned by Government from the export of

opium during the financial year 1956-57?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER FOR FINANCE (SHRI B. R. BHAGAT): The information asked for is not yet available.

SHRI DEOKINANDAN NARAYAN: What are the countries to which opium is being exported at present and what use is made of it there?

SHRI B. R. BHAGAT: Opium is being exported to U.K., France, Italy and U.S.A. for medicinal purposes, and to Pakistan for oral consumption.

SHRI DEOKINANDAN NARAYAN: May I know, Sir, if it is not a fact that Government revenue from opium is increasing every year? Is it due to an increase in the quantity exported or is it due to more profit made?

SHRI B. R. BHAGAT: Export is decreasing.

SHRI DEOKINANDAN NARAYAN: Revenue is increasing, Sir, So I want to know if Government is getting more profit out of it or is it due to something else?

SHRI B. R. BHAGAT: The hon. Member wanted to know the connection between export and the revenue derived therefrom. I said that the export of opium was decreasing.

SHRI M. VALIULLA: Under what conditions is the export decreasing? Is the decrease in the export due to any international agreement or has Government, of its own accord, decreased the export of it.

SHRI B. R. BHAGAT: Sir, apart from U.K. and U.S.A. the other countries were only occasional buyers and for the last one or two years the other countries have not bought the opium.

DR. P. C. MITRA: What was the total production of opium in 1956?

SHRI B. R. BHAGAT: I am sorry I I don't have it with me.

SHRI MAHESWAR NAIK: May I know, Sir, to what extent the consumption of opium has decreased in India as a result of prohibition?

SHRI B. R. BHAGAT: Sir, in accordance with the recommendations of the All-India Opium Conference in 1949, supplies of opium made to the State Governments for oral consumption in India are being progressively reduced at the rate of 10 per cent every year. It will cease altogether by 31st March 1959.

SHRI DEOKINANDAN NARAYAN: If it is a fact that opium export is decreasing, then is it local consumption that is growing, and is it not the policy of the Government to stop this consumption in the country?

MR. CHAIRMAN: He said that local consumption is being reduced by 10 per cent every year.

SHRI • SONUSING DHANSINGH PATIL: . Will the hon. Minister be pleased to state if the revenue from opium is going down year by year.

SHRI B. R. BHAGAT: To give a specific reply I want separate notice of the question.

DR. D. H. VARIAVA: What amount of opium is used in India for medicinal purposes, and are Government going to reduce that too?

SHRI B. R. BHAGAT: I would like to have notice.

SURVEY OF PRIMARY AND SECONDARY EDUCATION IN INDIA

*51. SHRI DEOKINANDAN NARAYAN: Will the Minister for EDUCATION AND SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH be pleased to refer to the reply given to Starred Question No. 173 in the Rajya