

# PROFIT FROM THE SALE OF OPIUM

\*43. SHRI H. C. DASAPPA (ON BEHALF OF SHRI M. VALIULLA): Will the Minister for FINANCE be pleased to state what was the profit that accrued to Government from the sale of opium in Europe and the United States of America in 1955-56?

THE MINISTER FOR REVENUE AND CIVIL EXPENDITURE (SHRI M. C. SHAH): Rs. 11,88,351 approximately were earned as profit from the sale of opium to Europe and the United States of America during the financial year 1955-56.

SHRI H. C. DASAPPA: May I know how it compares with the profits earned during the earlier years?

SHRI M. C. SHAH: The figures for the earlier years are as follows:

	Rs.
1950-51 ..	12,69,360
1951-52 ..	6,16,680
1952-53 ..	16,64,640
1953-54 ..	7,11,480
1954-55 ..	8,63,170

SHRI H. C. DASAPPA: May I know whether we have not entered into an international agreement to the effect that there must be progressive reduction in the consumption of opium in all the countries that are parties to the agreements?

SHRI M. C. SHAH: Yes, Sir.

SHRI H. C. DASAPPA: Are we implementing that part of the agreement?

SHRI M. C. SHAH: Yes, Sir.

SHRI H. C. DASAPPA: May I know then whether the production area or the quantity produced in India has decreased as a consequence of that policy?

SHRI M. C. SHAH: Yes, Sir.

SHRI JASWANT SINGH: How much per year was exported to Europe and how much to the United States?

SHRI M. C. SHAH: I have not got those separate figures but the quantities exported were respectively 440, 214, 578, 231 and 280 maunds.

SHRI H. P. SAKSENA: Is this opium exported for medicinal purposes or for consumption?

SHRI M. C. SHAH: For medicinal purposes.

SHRI JASWANT SINGH: Is this export on the increase every year or on the decline?

SHRI M. C. SHAH: Sir, I have already given the figures. Practically from 570 maunds or thereabouts it has come down to 280.

SHRI D. NARAYAN: May I know when this opium trade with foreign countries will come to an end according to the agreement reached at the international conference?

SHRI M. C. SHAH: For medicinal purposes there is no such agreement. It is only for consumption that.....

SHRI D. NARAYAN: I want to know when this opium trade with foreign countries will come to an end.

SHRI M. C. SHAH: Opium trade for medicinal purposes will not come to an end; for consumption in India it will come to an end slowly and slowly.

SHRI D. NARAYAN: According to the international conference it is to be reduced every year. So it will come to an end some day or the other. When will that be?

SHRI M. C. SHAH: That is not for medicinal consumption.

SHRI H. C. DASAPPA: Is not the period ten years?

SHRI M. C. SHAH: Yes, Sir.

SHRI H. C. DASAPPA: May I then know by what proportion the acreage under cultivation and the quantity produced has decreased?

SHRI M. C. SHAH: Every year 10 per cent. has to be decreased and by 1959 there will be no consumption in India.

SHRI H. C. DASAPPA: That is well known; that is in the agreement. I am asking about the actual decrease in the acreage and to that extent in production.

SHRI M. C. SHAH: The acreage has gone down from 3,00,000 acres to 50,000 acres.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Next question.

#### STOPPAGE OF GRANT OF LEASES OF COAL MINES

\*50. DR. SHRIMATI SEETA PARNANAND (ON BEHALF OF SHRI RATANLAL KISHORI LAL MALVIYA): Will the Minister for NATURAL RESOURCES AND SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH be pleased to state whether Government have taken any decision to stop grant of leases of coal mines to private firms and individuals and if so, from which date?

THE MINISTER FOR NATURAL RESOURCES (SHRI K. D. MALAVIYA): Yes, Sir.

Instructions were issued on 16th April, 1956 to all State Governments that no prospecting licences and mining leases should be granted to private parties.

DR. SHRIMATI SEETA PARNANAND: Have the Government made any declaration of the date from which they will not issue fresh leases?

SHRI K. D. MALAVIYA: The date which I have mentioned has been notified to the State Governments but this question of a general declaration

that henceforward licences will not be issued for private sector has not, so far as I remember, been made public.

DR. SHRIMATI SEETA PARNANAND: As a result does the Government intend opening new Government-run coal mines? If so, when and if not, why not?

SHRI K. D. MALAVIYA: The entire programme is under way. Under the second Plan we have a target of 23 million tons to be produced per year by 1960-61, out of which 15 million tons will be in public sector and 8 million tons in private sector.

DR. SHRIMATI SEETA PARNANAND: Does the Government intend issuing notices to leaseholders who hold leases above the limit that is permissible under the present law asking them to surrender the areas not being worked? Also what is the limit which is permissible per lessee?

SHRI K. D. MALAVIYA: All that has already been undertaken and as I said, steps are being taken to prevent the expansion of coal mining under private sector but in exceptional circumstances where it is absolutely necessary, we have allowed private parties also to obtain licence under exceptional circumstances.

DR. SHRIMATI SEETA PARNANAND: How long is this question to be under consideration and how long is likely to be taken to come to a decision?

SHRI K. D. MALAVIYA: It is not under consideration. The policy has been decided upon, that is, 15 million tons will be produced by 1960-61 under public sector and 8 million tons will be allowed to be continued to be worked under private sector. And all steps to ensure this programme are being taken.

SHRI MAHESHWAR NAIN: May I know whether this policy is confined only to coal or it is extended to other minerals also?