

SHRI TAJAMUL HUSAIN: May I know, Sir, when the Government will come to a conclusion? When will the consideration, which was started over a year ago, be over?

MR. CHAIRMAN: When will the examination be over—he asks.

SHRI M. C. SHAH: The Government will come to a decision as early as possible.

MR. CHAIRMAN: He has given the answer—it has been under consideration for some time and the consideration will reach a decision stage as soon as possible.

PROF. G. RANGA: There is only one more point, that is, which Ministry is in charge of this particular investigation? Is it the Finance Ministry or the Commerce and Industry Ministry?

SHRI M. C. SHAH: The Finance Ministry, because it is part of the Finance Ministry's functions.

SHRI S. C. KARAYALAR: May I know, Sir, what percentage of the life assurance fund of all the insurance companies in India is invested in Government securities?

SHRI M. C. SHAH: Government and other approved securities guaranteed by the Government of India, so far as Indian companies are concerned: Rs. 173,31,50,000 out of Rs. 280,84,05,000.

SHRI S. C. KARAYALAR: I want to know the percentage.

SHRI M. C. SHAH: Out of about Rs. 280 crores it is about Rs. 173 crores. This is a question of mathematics. The percentage can be worked out.

SHRI S. C. KARAYALAR: What percentage is Government securities alone?

MR. CHAIRMAN: You say 'Government and other approved securi-

ties'. He wants to know exclusively 'Government securities'.

SHRI M. C. SHAH: I have not got those figures, but section 27A lays down a certain percentage of the insurance fund to be invested in Government securities.

SHRI S. C. KARAYALAR: The Act may prescribe a certain percentage. I want to know what exactly is the percentage actually held in those securities.

SHRI M. C. SHAH: I have not got that break up. But my hon. friend should be satisfied that it is Rs. 173 crores in Government and other approved securities.

SHRI R. THANHLIRA: Before I put this question, may I ask you for a clarification? I want to know which Minister is responsible for giving the reply—I mean for giving answers to questions on parliamentary questions.

MR. CHAIRMAN: I do not follow. You put the question.

CUSTOMS COLLECTORATE AT SHILLONG

*331. **SHRI R. THANHLIRA:** Will the Minister for FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of customs posts operating at present under the Collectorate at Shillong;

(b) the value of smuggled articles confiscated in the year 1954 by the Collectorate; and

(c) the value of smuggled articles coming from Burma seized during the same period by the Collectorate?

THE MINISTER FOR REVENUE AND DEFENCE EXPENDITURE (SHRI A. C. GUHA): (a) The total number of customs posts operating at present under the Collectorate of Central Excise at Shillong is fifty-nine.

(b) The value of smuggled articles confiscated in the year 1954 by the Collectorate is Rs. 1,48,857.

(c) The value of articles seized during 1954 by the Collectorate while being smuggled from Burma is Rs. 1,76,792.

SHRI A. C. GUHA: With your permission, Sir, I should like to say that the figure fifty-nine in (a) includes both Pakistan and the Burma frontier and also both the Custom Stations and Preventive Posts.

SHRI R. THANHLIRA: What are the principal items of articles smuggled from Burma and East Bengal?

SHRI A. C. GUHA: Smuggled from Burma.....

MR. CHAIRMAN: What is the nature of the articles smuggled from both Pakistan and Burma? That is the question.

SHRI A. C. GUHA: The articles smuggled from Burma are mostly razor blades, fountain pens, wrist watches, cycles and cycle parts, lead pencils, flash lights and others. The article smuggled from East Bengal is mainly betel-nuts and there is also a small quantity of gold and silver.

SHRI TAJAMUL HUSAIN: What about opium?

SHRI A. C. GUHA: No, opium is not in the list.

(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN: Order, order.

SHRI R. THANHLIRA: May I know whether it has come to the notice of the Government that Indian currency has also been smuggled to Burma and what are the particular steps that are being taken to prevent this?

SHRI A. C. GUHA: We have not been able to seize any Indian currency going out from India to Burma.

I think that just on the borders, there may be some small transactions of not so much of Indian currency, but rather of Indian currency then prevalent in Burma. That was being smuggled into India. That was the currency which was in vogue then.

SHRI KANHAIYALAL D. VAIDYA: May I know whether this was smuggled by road, rail or steamer?

SHRI A. C. GUHA: On the Burma frontier, there is no rail or steamer service and there is hardly any road also. There are some jungle tracks.

†[PRIVATE INDIVIDUALS' SHARE IN THE STATE INDUSTRIAL UNDERTAKINGS]

*236. SHRI VIJAY SINGH: Will the Minister for FINANCE be pleased to state whether Government have under consideration any proposal to invite private individuals to have a share in the State Industrial Undertakings?

THE MINISTER FOR REVENUE AND CIVIL EXPENDITURE (SHRI M. C. SHAH): In their sixteenth Report the Estimates Committee have recommended that, in State Industrial enterprises which have been organised as joint stock companies 25 per cent. of the share capital should be made available to the public. This recommendation is under consideration.

SHRI H. C. DASAPPA: May I know if it will not be helpful to the Government to undertake many more undertakings if they invite the co-operation from private sector in regard to the State undertakings.

SHRI M. C. SHAH: That is a question of opinion. That is the opinion of the hon. Member. But now, as I said, the Estimates Committee have recommended this and we are considering that recommendation.

†Postponed from the 8th December 1955.