

# VERIFICATION OF STORES PURCHASED OVERSEAS

\*338. DR. RAGHUBIR SINH: Will the Minister for DEFENCE be pleased to refer to para 17 on page 12 of the Audit Report of Defence Services, 1954 and state:

(a) what steps have been taken to clear the arrears in the linking of invoices with packing accounts of the stores purchased overseas;

(b) what efforts have been made to find out the reasons for the accumulation of these arrears during the last seven years; and

(c) what steps have been taken to avoid repetition of such arrears in future?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER FOR DEFENCE (SARDAR S. S. MAJITHIA): (a), (b) and (c). The reasons for the delay in the linking of invoices with packing accounts within a reasonable period in the cases pointed out in the Audit Report were investigated and it was found that this arose from several causes, apart from the delay in the receipt of stores or the packing accounts by the consignees. The chief causes for the delay are the receipt of invoices by units other than those for whom the stores were meant, the receipt of incorrect packing accounts or the existence of discrepancies between the items received and those listed in the packing account. A considerable time-lag has also been noticed between the receipt of the packing accounts and the clearance of the packages and the checking of their contents. Fresh instructions have been issued by the Defence Services to all their lower formations, drawing attention to departmental instructions already in force, for the expeditious disposal of packing accounts. As a result of these special instructions, the number of cases pending has been reduced practically to nil in most of the branches.

It is hoped that, with the issue of fresh instructions, the cases of avoid-

able delay would be reduced considerably.

DR. RAGHUBIR SINH: May I know whether all those pending cases have been cleared by now?

SARDAR S. S. MAJITHIA: I have said that they have been practically reduced to nil. For instance, the M. G. O. Branch is absolutely clear. There are no pending cases. In the Q.M.G.'s Branch there are only 2 pending cases, and in the Ordnance there are only five.

DR. RAGHUBIR SINH: What has been result or effect of this out of date linking or late linking?

SARDAR S. S. MAJITHIA: The obvious result is delay.

DR. RAGHUBIR SINH: As a result of checking, has any deficiencies been found or not?

SARDAR S. S. MAJITHIA: That is also one of the reasons. Breakages do take place in transit and sometimes there are deficiencies. That is true.

## EXCAVATIONS AT SALIHUNDAM IN SRIKAKULAM DISTRICT

\*339. DR. RAGHUBIR SINH: Will the Minister for EDUCATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have received detailed reports of the excavations carried out at Salihundam in Srikakulam district;

(d) if so, what are the principal finds from these operations; and

(c) whether the site thus excavated is likely to be preserved for further study and excavations?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER FOR EDUCATION (DR. K. L. SHRIMALI): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Stupas, Chaitya-halls, inscribed potsherds, stucco heads of Buddha, a