

were engaged in smuggling opium. If the hon. Member has got any information, he could pass it on to me and I shall take action.

SHRI D. NARAYAN: Are any Government officials working in these factories responsible for the smuggling?

MR. CHAIRMAN: 'No'.

SHRI A. C. GUHA: I should repeat the same answer.

EXPORT DUTY ON READY-MADE GARMENTS AND APPAREL

*140. SHRI GOVINDA REDDY: Will the Minister for FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether any duty is levied on ready-made garments and apparel exported from India;

(b) if so, what are the rates of duty so levied;

(c) whether any representations have been received by Government urging the abolition and refund of such duty; and

(d) if the answer to part (c) above be in the affirmative, what are the nature and particulars of such representations?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER FOR FINANCE (SHRI A. C. GUHA): (a) No, Sir.

(b), (c) and (d). The questions do not arise.

SHRI GOVINDA REDDY: May I know, Sir, whether it is open to anybody to export freely ready-made garments, etc.?

SHRI A. C. GUHA: This question is only with regard to export duty but there may be some export restrictions and that question may be asked of the Commerce and Industry Minister.

SHRI GOVINDA REDDY: May I know, Sir, if any duty whatever is levied on export?

SHRI A. C. GUHA: As I have already stated, no export duty is levied on ready-made garments and apparel.

SHRI GOVINDA REDDY: Is it not a fact that some time ago the South India Chamber of Commerce represented to the Government for the reduction of the duty and relaxation of the rules for export of ready-made garments?

SHRI A. C. GUHA: I have no such information. If the hon. Member can send me a copy of the representation I will see, but I do not think there may be any occasion for this because there is no export duty on ready-made garments.

ACQUISITION OF RECORDS FROM DEFUNCT BRITISH RESIDENCIES

*141. SHRI GOVINDA REDDY: Will the Minister for EDUCATION be pleased to state the nature of the records acquired by the National Archives from the defunct British Residencies and Political Agencies during the year 1953?

THE PARLIAMENTARY SECRETARY TO THE MINISTER FOR EDUCATION (DR. K. L. SHRIMALI): They relate to different periods between the years 1808—1947, and contain mostly the correspondence of the Residents and Political Agents with the Government of the States to which they were accredited or with the paramount power.

SHRI GOVINDA REDDY: May I know, Sir, where these documents are kept now?

DR. K. L. SHRIMALI: In the National Archives.

SHRI GOVINDA REDDY: May I know, Sir, whether they are accessible to the members of the public?

DR. K. L. SHRIMALI: No, Sir. According to the existing rules only the documents pertaining to the period before 1901 are accessible to the public, except of course those reports that are confidential, which the Director of Archives in his discretion may throw open. Post-1901 records, both confidential and non-confidential, are made available only if the prior sanction of the Ministry concerned has been obtained.

SHRI GOVINDA REDDY: May I know, Sir, if these records which have been taken over from the old Residencies are so confidential as to require special permission?

DR. K. L. SHRIMALI: According to the rules, whether the records are confidential or non-confidential, the prior sanction of the Ministry concerned will have to be obtained.

PROF. G. RANGA: These rules must have been made a long long time ago and does not the Government consider that the time has come when these rules should be amended?

DR. K. L. SHRIMALI: The Government will consider the issue when a suitable opportunity is there.

SHRI GOVINDA REDDY: In whose possession were these documents until they came to the possession of the Central Government?

DR. K. L. SHRIMALI: State Governments.

SHRI GOVINDA REDDY: May I know, Sir, whether the Government have taken care to see that all the records that were there of a confidential nature in the old Residencies have been taken possession of by Government?

DR. K. L. SHRIMALI: Government have taken possession of the records which were available but some records are missing.

SHRI S. MAHANTY: May I know whether or not the National Archives has published any catalogue of these documents?

DR. K. L. SHRIMALI: I am not aware of it; I will find out.

DR. RAGHUBIR SINH: May I know if all the records are in the National Archives or a part of them are still lying with the State Governments?

DR. K. L. SHRIMALI: Some are still lying with the State Governments.

DR. RAGHUBIR SINH: May I know if any records were lost in transit when they were being transferred from the State Governments to the National Archives?

DR. K. L. SHRIMALI: I am not aware of any records lost in transit.

DR. RAGHUBIR SINH: May I know, Sir, if anything happened like this in the case of the records from the Kolhapur Agency?

DR. K. L. SHRIMALI: Sir, I have already said I am not aware of any records having been lost in transit.

SHRI GOVINDA REDDY: I want to know the reasons why some of these records are still left with the State Governments?

DR. K. L. SHRIMALI: On account of want of accommodation.

EXCAVATION WORK IN ANDHRA

*142. SHRI PRASADARAO: Will the Minister for EDUCATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the archaeological finds at Nagarjunakonda in the Guntur District of Andhra are being excavated; and

(b) if so, when the work will be completed?

THE PARLIAMENTARY SECRETARY TO THE MINISTER FOR EDUCATION (DR. K. L. SHRIMALI): (a) Yes.