

(e) what action Government propose to take on this representation?

THE MINISTER FOR HOME AFFAIRS AND STATES (DR. K. N. KATJU): (a) No.

(b) The post of Subordinate Judge in Tripura has been left vacant for the present and the work distributed between the District Judge and the Munsiff at Sadar without any inconvenience to the public.

(c) No.

(d) Yes.

*(e) No action is needed in view of (a) and (c) above.

PENSION AND GRATUITY OF DEMOBILISED OFFICERS IN RAJASTHAN

*274. **SHRI M. S. RANAWAT:** Will the Minister for DEFENCE be pleased to state how many cases of pension and gratuity of demobilised officers belonging to the disbanded ex-State forces in Rajasthan State are still pending?

THE MINISTER FOR DEFENCE ORGANISATION (SHRI MAHAVIR TYAGI): There are 74 cases pending of which 22 are being finalised with the audit authorities and the remaining 52 are under various stages of examination, out of which in 20 cases anticipatory pensions have been given.

PROHIBITION ON OPIUM CULTIVATION

*275. **SHRI KANHAIYALAL D. VAIDYA:** Will the Minister for FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the District Opium Officer of Ratlam has recently issued a circular prohibiting opium cultivation in Ratlam District (Madhya Bharat); and

(b) if so,—

(i) the reasons for taking such a step;

(ii) the number of cultivators, labourers and the extent of land affected thereby; and

(iii) the amount of loss of Revenue which will result therefrom?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER FOR FINANCE (SHRI A. C. GUHA): (a) Yes,

Sir. A circular was issued by the District Opium Officer on the 13th August 1953 notifying closure of poppy cultivation in 3 out of the 4 poppy growing paraganas of the Ratlam District.

(b) (i) and (ii). The reduction of acreage was in pursuance of Government's general policy of curtailing the production of opium, and affected not only the Ratlam District, but other traditionally poppy growing areas too. In Ratlam, 3,551 cultivators in 125 villages with an approximate area of 2,059 acres, would have been affected, if the areas notified in the Circular had been closed. The number of labourers who would have been affected is not known. I may, however, mention for the information of the House, that, on receipt of certain representations, Government are considering the matter with a view to restoring substantially the cut in acreage originally proposed. In the meantime, the District Opium Officer's Circular referred to above has also been held in abeyance.

(b) (iii). There is no question of loss of revenue, Sir, for even with the reduced acreage, the production of opium is expected to be more than adequate to meet all domestic requirements and demands from overseas. I would add that supplies to State Governments of excise opium which constitute the bulk of the domestic requirements are made on a no-profit-no-loss basis.

122. [Postponed to 14th September 1954]

FACILITIES GIVEN TO SCHEDULED BANKS TO CONVERT THEIR HOLDINGS

123. **SHRI M. VALIULLA:** Will the Minister for FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) what are the facilities given to the scheduled banks to convert their holdings of long dated securities to short or medium dated ones; and

(b) whether advantages are gained by such banks in doing so?