

has been revealed that up to 31st March 1953 (including the figures under the guarantee scheme), 238 Indian-owned tea gardens had been sanctioned credit limits aggregating Rs. 8.64 crores of which an amount of Rs. 3.36 crores had been availed of by them as on that date. Under the scheme of limited guarantee relating to tea finance sponsored by the Government of India, until 31st July 1953 111 Indian-owned tea gardens applied to Scheduled Banks for credit limits aggregating (approximately) Rs. 3.13 crores of which an amount of Rs. 2.50 crores (approximately) has been sanctioned as the limit of advance. Up to 31st July 1953 a sum of Rs. 1.45 crores (approximately) only has been availed by these 111 gardens. In regard to the extent of financial accommodation required by the Indian-owned tea gardens no precise information is available.

(d) The non-Indian-owned tea gardens are generally financed by the European Agency-Houses, the Exchange Banks and the London Banks. As to the extent of finance obtained by such tea gardens, no definite information is available. From the figures available with the Registrar of Joint Stock Companies (as on 13th August 1953), it is seen that such of these tea gardens as are limited companies obtained since January 1953 an aggregate sum of Rs. 7.25 crores from Scheduled Banks and Exchange Banks and sterling amounting to £2 lakhs by creating a charge on their assets.

AWARD OF RED BLANKETS TO THE TRIBAL CHIEFS OF MANIPUR

126. SHRI M. VALIULLA: Will the Minister for STATES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the British practice of presenting red blankets to the Tribal Chiefs of Manipur is being continued by Government after the 15th August 1947;

(b) if so, what is the number of red blankets so presented in each year from 1948 onwards; and

(c) whether this practice is confined to Tribal Chiefs of Manipur only?

THE MINISTER FOR HOME AFFAIRS AND STATES (DR. K. N. KATJU): (a) Yes.

(b) The distribution of blankets since 1948 has been as follows:—

Year	No. of blanket awarded
1948	4
1949	43
1950	6
1951	83
1952	56
1953	33
TOTAL	613

(c) The practice is not confined to tribal chiefs. Any person who collects and surrenders 10 unlicensed arms is entitled to get a piece of red cloth as also persons who render meritorious public or social service.

IRON PYRITES AND SULPHUR IN MYSORE STATE

127. SHRI M. VALIULLA: Will the Minister for NATURAL RESOURCES AND SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH be pleased to state whether any deposits of iron pyrites containing a high percentage of sulphur are available in Mysore State; if so, where and what is the quantity available?

THE MINISTER FOR EDUCATION AND NATURAL RESOURCES AND SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH (MAULANA ABUL KALAM AZAD): Deposits of iron pyrites with a sulphur content varying from 15 to 42 per cent. are available at Ingaldhal in Chitaldrug District in Mysore State. The reserves are estimated to be about 500,000 tons.

HONORARY ASSISTANT RECRUITING OFFICERS

128. SHRI M. VALIULLA: Will the Minister for DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there are Honorary Assistant Recruiting Officers at present;

(b) if so, what is their number and what honorarium is paid to them;

(c) the work turned out by them in 1951 and 1952; and

(d) whether there are paid recruiting officers also at present?

THE MINISTER FOR DEFENCE ORGANISATION (SHRI MAHAVIR TYAGI):

(a) Yes.

(b) 133; no honorarium is admissible to these officers.

(c) They secured 2,377 fit recruits in 1951 and 1,227 in 1952.

(d) Yes.

RECRUITMENT TO THE NATIONAL TERRITORIAL ARMY

129. SHRI M. VALIULLA: Will the Minister for DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) what is the target fixed for the country as regards recruitment to the National Territorial Army;

(b) whether the target has been reached; and

(c) what is the amount spent on allowances to trainees from August 1949 to date?

THE MINISTER FOR DEFENCE ORGANISATION (SHRI MAHAVIR TYAGI):

(a) The target originally fixed for recruitment to the Territorial Army was 1,30,000 but this is subject to alteration in the light of operational requirements.

(b) No.

(c) About Rs. 39½ lakhs have been spent on the pay and allowances etc. of the Territorial Army trainees from 1st August 1949 to 30th June 1953.

EMPLOYEES OF THE INSURANCE COMPANIES AND THEIR CONDITIONS OF SERVICE

130. SHRI B. V. KAKKILAYA: Will the Minister for FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of employees under the various Insurance Companies in India on 31st December, 1952; and

(b) the details of the wage scales, dearness allowance, bonus, hours of work, leave with pay, provident fund, pension and gratuity rules applicable to such employees?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER FOR FINANCE (SHRI M. C. SHAH): (a) and (b). No information is available with the Government.

RETRENCHMENT OF WORKERS FROM THE ORDNANCE ESTABLISHMENTS IN PUNJAB

131. SHRI K. C. GEORGE: Will the Minister for DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that over 1,000 workers were retrenched from the Ordnance Establishments in Punjab recently;

(b) if so, what are the concessions given to such retrenched employees;

(c) whether any alternate employment is offered by Government to the retrenched employees as promised by the Minister during the last session of Parliament; and

(d) whether the schemes for the starting of production for civilian consumption in the Ordnance Factories have not yet been put into effect?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER FOR DEFENCE (SHRI SATISH CHANDRA): (a) No, Sir. In recent months retrenchment has taken place in only one Ordnance Establishment in the Punjab, viz., Ammunition Depot, Gurgaon. 107 persons were declared surplus, of which 58 were found alternative employment, and the remaining 49 (including 36 casual employees) were actually retrenched.

(b) Normal benefits admissible on discharge.

(c) Every effort is made to provide alternative employment for surplus