

completely in Himachal Pradesh in spite of the representation of the State Government against this move; and

(b) what is the present purchase price paid by Government for opium and at what price opium is being sold by Government to the consumers?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER FOR FINANCE (SHRI A. C. GUHA): (a) In 1950, pursuant to the Government of India's policy of curtailment of opium production in India, a programme of reduction, by gradual stages, of poppy cultivation in Himachal Pradesh was arrived at in consultation with the Chief Commissioner of Himachal Pradesh. According to this programme, which also came up for review and discussion with the Chief Minister of Himachal Pradesh in 1952, the cultivation of poppy is to stop completely in that State after 1954-55.

(b) The price at which the Central Government purchases opium in Himachal Pradesh at present is as below:

Class I—

70° consistence and above ...Rs. 45 per seer.

Class II—

Less than 70° but not less than 66° consistence ...Rs. 42 per seer.
Inferior or Suspect. ...Rs. 20 per seer.

The Central Government issues excise opium to the State Governments after processing at the Opium Factory, Ghazipur, at Rs. 56-1 per seer on a no-profit no-loss basis. The retail-sale price to consumers of opium is fixed by the State Governments. The present price fixed by the Himachal Pradesh Government is, Rs. 400 to Rs. 560 per seer.

REMITTANCES OF PROFITS BY FOREIGN CONCERNS

146. SHRI L. H. DOSHI: Will the Minister for FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) what was the amount of Sterling and Dollar foreign exchange the Reserve Bank of India had to provide for remittances of profits to foreign concerns in the years 1950, 1951 and 1952; and

(b) what was the amount of Sterling and Dollar foreign exchange the Reserve Bank of India had to provide for remittances of salaries and other incomes of foreigners working in this country in the years 1950, 1951 and 1952?

THE MINISTER FOR FINANCE (SHRI C. D. DESHMUKH): (a) A statement is laid on the Table of the House. [See Appendix V, Annexure No. 87.]

(b) Generally, salaries and incomes of foreigners working in this country are paid in India in rupees; but they are allowed remittance facilities for maintenance of their dependants abroad and for other purposes. It would involve considerable labour to collect separate information of the total amount of remittances made by foreigners working in this country from out of their incomes.

SURVEY OF RURAL INDEBTEDNESS IN INDIA

147. SHRI L. H. DOSHI: Will the Minister for FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) when the survey of rural indebtedness which is being carried out at present will be completed;

(b) what is the total expenditure estimated for the survey; and

(c) how much of this expenditure has already been incurred?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER FOR FINANCE (SHRI A. C. GUHA): (a) Presumably, the hon. Member refers to the All-India Rural Credit Survey Committee, set up by the Reserve Bank of India to go into the whole question of rural credit and allied matters. The Committee has finished