

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

its field operations and is engaged in drafting its Report, which is expected to be received by Government shortly.

(b) Rs. 15 lakhs, till the end of August 1953.

(c) Rs. 14.03 lakhs.

INDIA'S CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE UNESCO

148. SHRIMATI PUSHPALATA DAS: Will the Minister for EDUCATION be pleased to state:

(a) what is the amount of India's contribution to United Nations Educational, Social and Cultural Organisation for each of the years from 1948 to 1953; and

(b) whether these contributions are in sterling or in dollar?

THE MINISTER FOR EDUCATION AND NATURAL RESOURCES AND SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH (MAULANA ABUL KALAM AZAD): (a) and (b). A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT

Year	Amount of contribution	
	Rs.	
1948	9,54,350
1949	9,75,314
1950	13,54,051
1951	15,24,384
1952	16,13,610
1953	14,78,700

(b) India's contribution is payable in sterling. Part of the contribution can be paid in rupees provided the Organization is in need of this currency. During 1952-53 a part of India's contribution was paid in rupees.

UNCOVERED DEBT OF GOVERNMENT

149. SHRI P. C. BHANJ DEO: Will the Minister for FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the uncovered debt of Government will amount to Rs. 368 crores at the end of the Budget Year 1953-54 as stated on page 68 of the Explanatory Memorandum on the Budget for 1953-54;

(b) whether the "Balance of total interest-bearing obligations not covered by the Assets", mentioned at page 69 of the Budget Memorandum for 1953-54 will amount to Rs. 900 crores at the end of 1953-54; and

(c) what are the causes for the discrepancy between the above two figures?

THE MINISTER FOR FINANCE (SHRI C. D. DESHMUKH): (a) and (b). These figures have undergone a change due to the rectification of a printing error in the Memorandum and an adjustment for the value of railway assets located in Pakistan. The final estimated figures of the uncovered debt and interest bearing obligations not covered by assets at the end of 1953-54 are Rs. 457 crores and Rs. 689 crores respectively.

(c) The difference is due to the fact that while the figure of uncovered debt takes into account all financial assets and liabilities, whether interest bearing or not, the figure referred to in part (b) of the question takes into account only interest bearing obligations and interest yielding assets.

COST OF PRODUCTION OF AIRCRAFT IN THE HINDUSTAN AIRCRAFT LTD.

150. SHRI P. C. BHANJ DEO: Will the Minister for DEFENCE be pleased to state the cost of aircraft production at Bangalore during 1951-52, 1952-53 and 1953-54 (estimated)?

THE MINISTER FOR DEFENCE ORGANISATION (SHRI MAHAVIR TYAGI): The cost of aircraft production at Hindustan Aircraft Ltd., Bangalore is roughly as follows:—

	Rs.	
1951-52	92 lakhs
1952-53	64 "
1953-54 (estimated)	236 "