

AGRICULTURAL LOAN FOR TRIPURA

39. MUNSHI ARMAN ALI: Will the Minister for STATES be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any demand for agricultural loans in Tripura;

(b) whether Government give loans to peasants in Tripura up to Rs. 100/-only;

(c) whether the granting of loan takes a long time after application therefor is submitted; and

(d) whether Government have any scheme to give economic loans to peasants in Tripura?

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

(b) Under the Agricultural Loans Act in force in Tripura, loans can ordinarily be granted up to Rs. 400 in the first instance. In special cases, loans can be granted up to a maximum of Rs. 5,000.

(c) No. Loans are granted as soon as possible and generally within a month of the receipt of application.

(d) Yes.

MOVEMENT OF TOBACCO

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

(a) whether it is a fact that when tobacco on which duty has been paid is removed from one warehouse to another the consignee of such tobacco is required to pay further duty if the officer-in-charge of the warehouse of destination fails to report to the officer-in-charge of the warehouse of removal the arrival of the consignment of tobacco at the warehouse of destination; and

(b) whether representations have been made by the Gujrati Tobacco Merchants Association detailing their

grievances to the Collector of Central Excise, Baroda, and to the Government of India in the matter; if so what action Government have taken thereon?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER FOR FINANCE (SHRI A. C. GUHA) : (a) Under Rules 152 to 156B of the Central Excise Rules, 1944, tobacco is allowed to move without payment of duty from one warehouse to another under a bond executed by the consignor or the consignee; tobacco on which duty has been paid is not allowed to be retained in a warehouse and the question of its removal from one warehouse to another does not, therefore, arise.

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An investigation made in 1948 showed that a large number of consignments removed from one warehouse to another had remained unaccounted for, as the officers at destination had not reported their arrival. Demands were, therefore, served on the removers of the goods for the payment of duty, where the removers had entered into the bond as they had not discharged their obligation under the bonds executed by them for re-warehousing the goods.

(b) Yes, Sir; representations were received from the Gujarat Tobacco Merchants' Association, Anand, against recovery of duty by the Central Excise Department in respect of consignments of the description referred to here. In order to alleviate any hardship arising merely from reports of re-warehousing not having been received even though such tobacco had been re-warehoused and accounted for, instructions had, however, been issued earlier to the Collectors of Central Excise that if from the scrutiny of such evidence as was forthcoming, e.g., the account books of consignees or consignors, the officers were satisfied that the consignments in dispute had been duly re-warehoused, the demand for duty should be withdrawn.

The Collector of Central Excise, Baroda, has reported that 954 con-

signments of tobacco involving an aggregate excise duty of Rs. 77,69,295 were originally discovered as not having been re-warehoused, and that relief in accordance with Government's directions referred to above "has been given in respect of 746 consignments involving an amount of Rs. 54,30,960. The other consignments are still under investigation; and no demand for excise duty has so far been enforced in respect of these consignments.

EXCAVATION WORK IN BIKANER DIVISION

41. SHRI B. V. KAKKILAYA: Will the Minister for EDUCATION be pleased to lay on the Table of the Council « complete statement regarding the reported discovery of archaeological data in the Bikaner Division by the Swedish Expedition?

THE MINISTER FOR EDUCATION AND NATURAL RESOURCES AND SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH (MAULANA ABUL KALAM AZAD): The required statement will be placed on the Table of the House after a complete report has been received.

STAFF OF THE PENSIONS BRANCH

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

(a) the strength of the staff of the Pensions Branch of the Defence Ministry on 1st April 1951, 1st October 1951, 1st April 1952, 1st October 1952, and 1st January 1953; and

(b) the number of fresh appeals including "assessment appeals" received by the Ministry from 1st April 1952?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER FOR DEFENCE (SARDAR S. S. MAJITHIA): (a) The strength of the staff on the various dates was as follows:

On 1st April 1951	..	185
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On 1st October 1951	..	167
On 1st April 1952	..	157
On 1st October 1952	..	157
On 1st January 1953	..	157

These figures include class IV servants also.

(b) 2,561 (up to 28th February 1953).

EMPLOYMENT OF DEMOBILISED PERSONNEL

60. SHRI M. VALIULLA: Will the Minister for HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Government of India requested the State Governments to absorb retrenched army personnel in suitable posts like the Police, Excise, Forest, Home Guards and Watch and Ward departments: and

(b) if the reply to part (a) above be in the affirmative, how many persons have so far been absorbed in the various departments since September 1950?

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

(b) The available information is given in the accompanying statement laid on the table of the Council. [See Appendix IV, Annexure No. 175.] Further details are not readily available and their collection will entail an excessive expenditure of time, labour and money.

VISIT OF SIR GEORGE SCHUSTER

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

(a) whether Sir George Schuster, former Finance Member in the Viceroy's Executive Council, was in India 1/2 January and February of 1953;