

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;