

SHRI MAHAVIR TYAGI: Well, if my hon. friend wanted a pointed information, he ought to have put a specific question.

SHRI P. SUNDARAYYA: Has this officer in charge of the medical unit referred to germ warfare that has been conducted or its effects?

SHRI MAHAVIR TYAGI: Sir, it is no good making any suggestions or giving any suggestions in this House. As I have said, I have no information about this meeting addressed by that officer.

SALE OF MILITARY STORES

*348. SHRI P. SUNDARAYYA: Will the Minister for DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that some British personnel of the Indian Air Force were tried for selling military stores without proper authorisation; and

(b) if so, what action has been taken by Government in the matter?

THE MINISTER FOR DEFENCE ORGANISATION (SHRI MAHAVIR TYAGI): (a) No.

(b) Does not arise.

SHRI P. SUNDARAYYA: Is it not a fact that early in 1952 some British officers attached to the Indian Air Force at Bangalore were arrested on the charge that they were trying to smuggle military stores for illegal sale outside?

SHRI MAHAVIR TYAGI: Sir, as I have said, if I had that information I would not say 'no'. I have already said, there was no British personnel tried for selling any military material anywhere.

SHRI P. SUNDARAYYA: Is it not a fact that early in 1952 in the military books some amounts were missing and these were attributed to these

officers—to the tune of Rs. 1,35,000? And is it not a fact that the Government later on sent orders that the value of those goods should be written off?

SHRI MAHAVIR TYAGI: Sir, I would advise my hon. friend to put a specific question about this particular case. He made a general enquiry and I gave a general reply. If he has any case in mind, I shall be very glad to make enquiries and give him further information about it.

SHRI P. SUNDARAYYA: May I know whether there are any rules by which we can arrest and prosecute the British officers if they do any such things? My information is that there are no such rules. I would like to verify this fact.

SHRI MAHAVIR TYAGI: Sir, there are no rules. But the law, as it stands, applies uniformly both in the Civil side as well as in the Defence side.

SHRI P. SUNDARAYYA: Does it apply to the Britishers also?

SHRI MAHAVIR TYAGI: Of course. Why not?

♦349. [See CoZs. 2496—2498.]

SECURITIES HELD BY THE RESERVE BANK OF INDIA

*350. SHRI GOVINDA REDDY: Will the Minister for FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the advances made by the Reserve Bank of India to the scheduled banks in the year 1952; and

(b) the amount of the securities pledged by the scheduled banks with the Reserve Bank of India against advances made to them in the years 1951-52 and 1952-53?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER FOR FINANCE (SHRI A. C. GJHA): (a) The advances made by the Reserve Bank of India to the scheduled banks durins

the year 1952 amounted to Rs. 245·7 crores.

(b) The total amount of securities held by the Reserve Bank of India as cover for advances to the scheduled banks as at the end of December 1951, December 1952, January 1953, and February 1953 were of the face value of Rs. 44·3 crores, Rs. 74·9 crores, Rs. 63·6 crores and Rs. 74·8 crores, respectively.

SHRI GOVINDA REDDY: How much of the advances made was outstanding at the end of the year from the scheduled banks?

SHRI A. C. GUHA: The usual practice is that a certain amount is made available for the banks to take as advance. But they do not take the advance all at a time. They often draw and repay and again draw. For the year 1950-51, I have got the figures with me. At the end of the year 1950 only Rs. 13 · 72 crores and at the end of the year 1951 Rs. 76·57 crores were left with the banks as advances.

SHRI GOVINDA REDDY: Is it not a fact, Sir, that advances are being made on different accounts—on several accounts?

SHRI A. C. GUHA: Yes, on different accounts.

SHRI GOVINDA REDDY: Sir, apart from the advances that are being made for the ordinary routine expenditure of the banks, are not advances made against bills and drafts?

SHRI A. C. GUHA: All these are covered by the Reserve Bank Act—I think section 17—and that section will give the hon. Member all the information required by him.

SHRI GOVINDA REDDY: Is it not a fact, Sir, that large outstandings are still to be recovered from the advances made against bills?

SHRI A. C. GUHA: It may be so. Sir, I have no information just at present. I would like to have notice

if the hon. Member wants any particular information.

SHRI GOVINDA REDDY: Is interest being charged on these advances?

SHRI A. C. GUHA: Surely, Sir; at the usual bank rate.

CURRENCY EXCHANGE BETWEEN INDIA AND GOA

•351. SHRI GOVINDA REDDY: Will the Minister for FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that labourers from the Indian territory now engaged in the mining industry in Goa are unable to make remittances of money to India owing to lack of money exchange facilities;

(b) whether it is a fact that Indian currency is not available in Goa territory for exchange; and

(c) what steps Government propose to take to remedy the situation?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER FOR FINANCE (SHRI A. C. GUHA) : (a) Government have received reports that labourers from Indian territory engaged in mining industry in Goa are experiencing difficulties in exchanging Portuguese Indian currency into Indian currency. Government understand, however, that adequate facilities exist for remittances to India by money orders.

(b) According to Government's information, there is enough Indian currency in Goa for being exchanged 'for Portuguese Indian currency

(c) Does not arise.

SHRI GOVINDA REDDY: Has **not**, Sir, a representation been made on behalf of the labourers that there is not sufficient currency available?

SHRI A. C. GUHA: Sir, I have already stated that the Government have received reports from the labourers. So there must have been some representation from the labourers.