

M/s. AMIN CHAND PYARE LAL

137. SHRI S. S. MARISWAMY :
SHRI M. K. MOHTA :

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether raids were recently conducted by the Customs Department on all the offices of Messrs. Amin Chand Pyare Lal ;

(b) if so, whether any acrimonious papers were discovered and seized ; and

(c) if so, the details thereof and the action proposed to be taken against the management

THE DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER AND MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI MORARJI R. DESAI) : (a) The offices of M/s. Amin Chand Pyare Lal at Calcutta, Bombay, Madras and Dilh', were searched in April, 1968 by the officers of the Enforcement Directorate, assisted by the Officers of the Customs, Central Excise and Income-tax Departments.

(b) and (c) Certain documents indicating prima facie, violations of foreign exchange regulations have been seized. It will not be in the public interest to disclose the details of the seized documents at this stage of the investigations. The seized documents are under scrutiny and investigations are in progress.

WEALTH TAX RETURNS

138. SHRI M. R. VENKATA RAMAN:
Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have given extension of time for the purpose of filing the Wealth Tax returns for the year 1968-69 ; and

(b) if so, the reasons therefor

THE DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER AND MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI MORARJI R. DESAI) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) As a result of an amendment introduced by the Finance Act, 1968, the penalty for concealment of wealth, whether due to understatement of the value of any assets or due to any other reason has to be between a minimum of an amount equal to the concealed wealth and a maximum twice of that amount. The penalties leviable under the new provisions are far higher than before

and even honest assesseees who return all the assets but fail to return them at their present value might become for one reason or another liable. All assesseees were there fore advised in their own interest to have their assets valued or revalued by qualified valuers befoie furnishing their returns for wealth tax. Because of this there will be a great pressure on the limited time of the valuers and in order to enable the valuation to be made properly by the qualified valuers, Government have allowed a general extension of time for the filing of returns for the assessment year 1968-69 by two months, i.e., up to 31st August, 1968.

WORKING OF DELHI HOSPITALS

139. SHRI M. P. BHARGAVA : Will the Minister of HEALTH, FAMILY PLANNING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) what is the progress in the work of the Committee appointed to go into the working of the Delhi hospitals ;

(b) whether it is a fact that complaints about the working of Delhi hospitals are increasing every month ; and

(c) whether there is a shortage of doctors in the Delhi hospitals ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH, FAMILY PLANNING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI B. S. MURTHY) : (a) The Committee has submitted its report copies of which are available in the Parliament Library. The report is under the consideration of Government.

(b) No statistics are available about the complaints about the working of the Delhi hospitals.

(c) No.

OUT-OF TURN ALLOTMENT TO WORKING GIRLS

140. CHAUDHARY A. MOHAMMAD : Will the Minister of WORKS, HOUSING AND SUPPLY be pleased to state :

(a) the number of working girls who have been allotted out-of-turn accommodation in Delhi during the lasi one year ; and

(b) the main grounds on which out-of. turn allotments have been sanctioned to them ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF WORKS, HOUSING AND SUPPLY (SARDAR IQBAL SINGH) : (a) and (b) Working girls who are not in service of the Government are given accommodation only in the Working Girls Hostel and are not given 'general pool' accommodation. It is presumed that the question refers to women employees of Government. 57 out-of-turn allotments were made to women employees of Government during the year of which 33 were on medical grounds and 24 on other compassionate grounds.

In addition, 15 per cent of the accommodation in the new Hostel on Curzon Road has been reserved for Lady Officers. This comprises of 52 rooms. Out of this, 11 have been allotted on out-of-turn basis, on similar grounds.

BHOOTHALINGAM REPORT ON RATIONALISATION OF TAX LAWS

141. SHRI N. R. MUNISWAMY : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether all the recommendations contained in the Bhoothalingam Report have been accepted by Government ; and

(b) if not, which of those recommendations were rejected and the reasons therefor ?

THE DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER AND MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI MORARJI R. DESAI) : (a) In regard to Shri Bhoothalingam's First Interim Report on Rationalisation and Simplification of Tax Laws, a statement setting forth the list of the recommendations in the Report and indicating the action taken thereon, is laid on the Table of the House. [See Appendix LXV Annexure No. 9.] Decisions on the recommendations in Shri Bhoothalingam's Final Report will be taken by Government, after a careful and thorough study of their implications and after considering the views of hon'ble members, expert bodies and members of the public. However, some of the suggestions in the Final Report on matters which were already engaging the attention of the Government and which did not involve any radical changes in the tax structure have been implemented through the Finance Act, 1968. These relate to discontinuance of the 'dividend tax* on domestic companies with reference to their excess distributions of equity dividends; prescription of standard deduction

for expenditure on maintenance and wear and tear of conveyances owned by salaried taxpayers ; and deduction in the computation of the annual value of let-out house property, of the whole of the local taxes in respect of the property, in all cases.

(b) As the Final Report of Shri Bhoothalingam is still under study, it is not possible to announce the decision of the Government on the recommendations contained in it.

142. [Transferred to the 2nd August, 1968.]

MADRAS REFINERY

143. SHRI N. R. MUNISWAMY : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that the Madras Refinery is likely to be delayed in its commissioning ; and

(b) if so, what is the extent of delay involved, and what are the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS AND OF SOCIAL WELFARE (SHRI K. RAGHURAM-AIAH) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) By about 3 months, owing to delays in the arrival of critical materials related to boiler manufacture in India, labour difficulties in the suppliers works in India relating to production of pressure vessels and labour strikes.

144. [Transferred to the 31st July, 1968.]

SCARCITY OF WATER IN NORTHERN INDIA

145. SARDAR RAM SINGH :

SHRI LOKANATH MISRA :

SHRI S. S. MARISWAMY :

Will the Minister of HEALTH, FAMILY PLANNING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government's attention has been invited to a press report appearing in the Hindustan Times dated May 31, 1968 to the effect that most of the cities and towns and large chunks of the rural areas in Northern India are passing through the worst ever periods of water scarcity ; and

(b) if so, what action, if any, is being taken by Government to relieve the distress in the affected areas ?