

**Shri B. R. Bhagat:** So far as India is concerned, fresh efforts have been made; I cannot say about the other side.

**Shri A. C. Guha:** There were so many conferences with Pakistan. When was this matter last discussed?

**Shri B. R. Bhagat:** This was discussed last in June, 1950.

**Dr. Lanka Sundaram:** May I know whether the Government of India propose to implement early the recommendations of the Banks Liquidation Proceedings Committee, in para ninety, where three recommendations were made suggesting some reliefs for displaced banks, whose funds are locked up in Pakistan?

**Shri B. R. Bhagat:** I want notice of the question.

**Shri Badsnah Gupta:** May I know what amount is due to displaced persons living in Pakistan from Banks in India?

**Shri B. R. Bhagat:** As I answered already, the information is not available.

**Shri Sarangadhar Das:** May I know if any accounts from Banks in India have been transferred to Pakistan because the depositors live in Pakistan now?

**Shri B. R. Bhagat:** That is the matter under consideration in the Implementation Committee.

**Mr. Deputy-Speaker:** The Question Hour is over.

#### WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

##### ADMINISTRATIVE REFORMS FOR TRIPURA AND MANIPUR

**\*742. Shri Madhao Reddi:** Will the Minister of States be pleased to state whether any scheme of Administrative reforms has been finalised for the States of Tripura and Manipur after the visit of the Home Minister recently to those States?

**The Minister of Home Affairs and States (Dr. Katju):** It has been decided to set up Councils of Advisers for Manipur and Tripura under Section 42 of the Part C States Act, 1951. Formal notifications appointing the Advisers and defining their powers will be issued shortly.

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#### EXPERT COMMITTEE (EXCISE)

**\*748. Dr. Amin:** (a) Will the Minister of Finance be pleased to state what are the recommendations of the Expert Committee (Excise)?

(b) Do Government propose to publish the report of this Committee and if so, when?

**The Minister of Revenue and Expenditure (Shri Tyagi):** (a) With reference to part (a) of the question, attention of the Member is invited to the reply given by me on the 2nd March, 1953 in reply to a similar question, No. 417 by Shri S. N. Das.

(b) Yes, Sir. The Report of the Expert Committee (Excise) has already been printed and will be released for publication very shortly.

#### INSURANCE COMPANIES

**\*753. Pandit Munishwar Datt Upadhyay:** Will the Minister of Finance be pleased to state the total number of the Indian and non-Indian Insurance Companies doing insurance business in India at the end of 1952 and how many of them were doing life business?

**The Minister of Finance (Shri C. D. Deshmukh):** (i) The total number of insurers as on 31-12-52—

Indian.	222.
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Non-Indian.	102.
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(ii) The number of insurers doing life business—

Indian	164.
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Non-Indian	17.
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#### - TOBACCO-TAX

**\*757. Shri Shobha Ram:** Will the Minister of Finance be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the fact that the tobacco-tax is assessed on the standing crop and if so, under what law it is being assessed; and

(b) whether such assessment is in contravention of the rule under the Act which gives the curer a right to get the product weighed by the officer?

**The Minister of Revenue and Expenditure (Shri Tyagi):** (a) and (b). The existing Central Excise law requires the tobacco-curer, who chooses to pay duty on his cured produce, to pay such duty immediately on curing, by applying to the nearest excise officer and getting the produce weighed in his presence

2. However, in districts where tobacco is sparsely cultivated in a large number of plots scattered over wide areas, some of the producers fail to apply as aforesaid, and prefer to dispose of their tobacco without payment of duty. It has also not been possible for the Central Excise Inspector, in sparsely cultivated areas, always to contact all the producers, at the proper time, for purposes of assessment of the tobacco produced. The Inspectors have, therefore, had to resort, in such cases, to summary assessments based on the condition of the standing crop, and the available data of crop-cutting experiments conducted in or near the relative localities.

#### SYMPOSIUM ON ARTIFICIAL RAIN

\*760. **Shri T. S. A. Chettiar:** (a) Will the Minister of Natural Resources and Scientific Research be pleased to state whether a Symposium on artificial rain was held on 9th February, 1953?

(b) What were the conclusions arrived at after the discussions?

(c) Have any experiments been done in this direction and if so, with what results?

**The Deputy Minister of Natural Resources and Scientific Research (Shri K. D. Malaviya):** (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) No formal conclusions or resolutions were passed by the Symposium. But the Atmospheric Research Committee, which took note of these discussions and also of work done abroad came to the general conclusion that, while some clouds satisfying certain conditions can be stimulated to produce precipitation on a restricted and local scale by artificial seeding, there is very little evidence and no adequate scientific basis for the belief that it is possible to modify or control the rainfall or weather of an area by artificial means.

(c) Some laboratory experiments have been conducted. A few field experiments were carried out during the last monsoon season in Calcutta by Dr. S. K. Banerji of the Jadavpur Engineering College to induce rain from clouds by dispersing various kinds of seeding materials from balloon-borne gadgets. The results were not conclusive.

#### CARNIVAL AT THE NATIONAL STADIUM

\*761. **Shri Ganpat Ram:** Will the Minister of Defence be pleased to state the total sum allocated by the

Government of India for the Army, Navy and Air Force Carnival held at the National Stadium, New Delhi, on the 21st and 22nd February, 1953?

**The Deputy Minister of Defence (Sardar Majithia):** No Government funds were allocated for the Carnival.

#### जल-सेना का भारतीयकरण

\*७६२. श्री आर० एन० सिंह : क्या रक्षा मंत्री यह बतलाने की कृपा करेंगे कि भारतीय जल-सेना का पूर्ण भारतीयकरण कब तक हो जायेगा ?

**The Deputy Minister of Defence (Shri Satish Chandra):** So far as Service officers are concerned, it is not at present possible to say with any degree of certainty as to when they will be completely replaced. The Civilian officers are expected to be replaced by the end of 1955. The policy of the Government, however, is to indianise these appointments as quickly as circumstances and availability of officers permit.

#### REPORTS ON ADMINISTRATION OF SCHEDULED AREAS

\*764. **Shri Natawadkar:** Will the Minister of Home Affairs be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government of India have received from States the annual reports regarding administration of Scheduled Areas for the year 1951-52 and if so, from which States; and

(b) whether Government propose to lay these on the Table of the House?

**The Deputy Minister of Home Affairs (Shri Datar):** (a) These reports pertain to calendar years and have been received from all States having Scheduled Areas except Madras for the year 1951. As for 1952, the report has so far been received from Punjab only.

(b) No. The Report of the Commissioner for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes which is submitted to Parliament each year covers all important matters relating to the Scheduled Areas and the Scheduled Tribes.

#### EAST BENGAL DISPLACED PERSONS

536. **Shri B. K. Das:** Will the Minister of Rehabilitation be pleased to state:

(a) how many East Bengal displaced persons have so far been re-