

SMUGGLING OF LIQUOR

*1230. **Shri Gidwani:** Will the Minister of Finance be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that some Customs Officers at Bombay were involved in smuggling of liquor cases during the year 1951;

(b) whether the enquiry was held and the cases decided in August 1952 by the Collector of Customs;

(c) if so, whether they were convicted;

(d) the punishment awarded to them; and

(e) whether they have been retained in Government service?

The Deputy Minister of Finance (Shri A. C. Guha): (a) No officer was involved in smuggling of liquor. But four officers were charged for unauthorised possession of liquor.

(b) to (e). Three of them were acquitted by the Presidency Magistrate and the fourth was sentenced to one day's simple imprisonment and a fine of Rs. 500 or in default rigorous imprisonment for 6 weeks. Departmental enquiry was held in two out of the four cases. In one case the officer was found guilty and was removed from service. In the other case, his increment was stopped for one year. In the two other cases, no departmental enquiry was held for lack of evidence.

Shri Gidwani: Is it a fact that the preventive officer, Mr. Dique was caught red-handed while smuggling liquor from the docks while on duty, that he was prosecuted and convicted by the criminal court at Ballard Pier and that his appeal to the High Court was also rejected; and may I know whether he has been re-instated in Government service?

Shri A. C. Guha: I have stated that only one man was convicted and was awarded simple imprisonment only for a day.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: He wants to know whether he is still in service.

Shri A. C. Guha: Yes, Sir. He is still in service. Because we consulted the Ministry and there was not sufficient evidence and it was not considered an act of moral turpitude.

Shri Gidwani: Sir, his appeal has been rejected by the High Court and it is said by the hon. Minister that he has been reinstated. Does it not constitute moral turpitude?

Shri A. C. Guha: I can only say we have consulted the Law Ministry and it was stated that no charge for smuggling could lay in such cases. According to the circular of the Home Ministry it was not considered an act of moral turpitude and I can read out the relevant portion of the Home Ministry circular.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: Notwithstanding the conviction?

Shri A. C. Guha: It is not that every conviction for breach of prohibition is to be a case for automatic dismissal. That is the Home Ministry's circular and we have been guided by that.

Several Hon. Members: Why not?

Shri H. N. Mukerjee: Since the hon. the Home Minister is here could we have this vouchsafed by him, Sir?

The Prime Minister (Shri Jawaharlal Nehru): May I suggest that this matter may be looked into again and it may be raised again?

Shri A. C. Guha: We are already looking into this matter.

Shri Jawaharlal Nehru: It will be referred to the Prime Minister now.

TRAINING OF TECHNICAL PERSONNEL

*1231. **Shri C. Bhatt:** Will the Minister of Defence be pleased to state:

(a) the number, names and qualifications of the technical personnel who have been selected for undergoing specialised training in the factories of the Campaign Generale de Telegraphe Sans Fil Organisation in

the manufacturing, testing, development and other departments;

(b) the place where this Company is situated; and

(c) the duration of training?

The Deputy Minister of Defence (Shri Satish Chandra): (a) 12 trainees have been selected; their names and qualifications are given in the statement which is laid on the Table of the House. [See Appendix VI, annexure No. 16.]

(b) Cholet (France).

(c) Approximately one year.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: Order, order. Each hon. Member should make up his or her mind not to talk. What can I do?

Shri C. Bhatt: Who will be the expenses of this personnel and who is to bear the expenses till their training is finished?

Shri Satish Chandra: The cost of the training will be about Rs. 1,30,200 and it will be debited to the account of the Bharat Electronic Industries.

Shri C. Bhatt: When is the next selection going to be held and will there be any change in the qualifications for the selected personnel?

Shri Satish Chandra: No proposal has come to the Government so far. We shall look into it.

Shri N. M. Lingam: May I know the reasons for which this particular place was selected for training?

Shri Satish Chandra: The C. S. F. with whom the Government have entered into an agreement for the technical assistance in setting up of the Tele-Communications factory in India, have their works at this particular place.

GENERAL PROVIDENT FUND

*1232. **Shrimati Renu Chakravartty:** Will the Minister of Finance be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to allow all the Central Government

employees of Class IV category to enjoy the facilities of General Provident Fund Rules;

(b) whether Post and Telegraph Department employees have already been granted these facilities; and

(c) the reason for the granting of the same to Post and Telegraph Department employees and not to other Government employees of the same category?

The Deputy Minister of Finance (Shri M. C. Shah): (a) to (c). There had been a persistent and widespread demand from Class IV employees of the Posts and Telegraphs Department for permission to subscribe to the General Provident Fund. Necessary orders permitting those employees to subscribe to the Fund on a voluntary basis were accordingly issued early this year. There is no similar demand at present from or on behalf of Class IV employees of other Departments. If and when such a demand develops, the question of extending the benefits of the General Provident Fund to the other employees will be given due consideration, in the light of the experience gained of the working of the arrangements on the Posts and Telegraphs side.

Shrimati Renu Chakravartty: Are we to take it that no such demands have been received from the class IV servants of any other department?

Shri M. C. Shah: No, Sir. No, Madam.

Some Hon. Members: What, Madam?

Shri M. C. Shah: I am sorry.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: The first reply was right.

Shrimati Renu Chakravartty: May I know what are the reasons which deter the Government from applying these rules to every department in view of the fact that this money can be utilised for nation-building activities?