

बीड़ी में इस्तेमाल करेंगे या हुक्के में । लेकिन पिछले फ़ायनेन्स बिल के अन्दर यह तय हो गया था कि ख्वाहिश पर कि कहां इस्तेमाल करेंगे, इस पर ड्यूटी नहीं लगाई जायगी, बल्कि तम्बाकू की हैसियत को देखा जायगा । अगर तम्बाकू बीड़ी में इस्तेमाल करने लायक है तो उस पर ज्यादा ड्यूटी लगेगी और हुक्के में इस्तेमाल करने वाली है तो उस पर कम ड्यूटी लगेगी ।

[**Shri Tyagi:** Formerly the excise duty on tobacco was levied on the basis of intention: i.e., whether it was to be used for manufacture of bidis or for hookah smoking. But in the last Finance Bill it was decided that the duty would not be levied on this basis but on the quality of tobacco. If tobacco is suitable for the manufacture of bidis it would be subjected to duty at a higher rate than the one charged for hookah-tobacco.]

NATH BANK LTD.

*279. **Shri A. C. Guha:** Will the Minister of Finance be pleased to refer to the reply given to part (f) of my Starred Question No. 296 asked on the 3rd March 1952 and state how much of the amount of 30 lakhs collected by the liquidators of the Nath Bank, Ltd., has been by settlement, i.e., by setting off deposit amounts against debts?

The Minister of Finance (Shri C. D. Deshmukh): The liquidators work under the direction of the High Court and Government are not in a position to give the information.

Shri A. C. Guha: Is it not possible for the Reserve Bank to give the information?

Mr. Speaker: Order, order. He is arguing now.

CONSTRUCTIVE SCHEMES FOR TRAVANCORE-COCHIN

*280. **Kumari Annie Mascarene:** Will the Minister of Finance be pleased to state whether any amount has so far been spent by the Government of India in Travancore-Cochin State for any constructive schemes or otherwise?

The Minister of Finance (Shri C. D. Deshmukh): A statement giving the available information, from 1948-49 to

1951-52, is being placed on the Table of the House. [See Appendix II, annexure No. 10.]

Kumari Annie Mascarene: May I know whether the State Government has made any contribution to these grants?

Shri C. D. Deshmukh: To most of the G.M.F. grants the State Governments make their own contribution.

Kumari Annie Mascarene: Has the Government made any enquiry into the progress of the work done there?

Shri C. D. Deshmukh: No, Sir. The Government does not make any enquiries but I have no doubt that the Planning Commission keep an eye on the implementation of the various schemes for which State Governments receive assistance from the Centre.

SLUMP IN COMMODITY MARKETS

*281. **Pandit Munishwar Datt Upadhyay:** Will the Minister of Finance be pleased to state:

(a) the causes of the slump in the commodity markets;

(b) what commodities were the worst affected;

(c) how the slump affected the entire economic structure of the country;

(d) how the progress of the slump was checked; and

(e) whether the slump is likely to occur again?

The Minister of Finance Shri C. D. Deshmukh: (a), (c) and (d). The hon. Member's attention is invited to my Budget Speech delivered on the 23rd May, 1952.

(b) From available information it appears that pepper, tea, gur, vegetable oils and oilseeds, raw cotton, raw wool, raw jute and jute goods were the principal commodities affected by the recent break in prices. Silver and gold were also affected.

(e) the various steps taken by Government in the direction of liberalising exports and relaxing controls are expected to revive demand. However, it is difficult to forecast the future and much will depend on the behaviour of prices abroad.

Pandit Munishwar Datt Upadhyay: Is the hon. Minister in a position to tell the House as to why particularly these commodities were badly affected?