

Central Excise Staff in Purnea

1263. **Shri M. Islamuddin:** Will the Minister of Finance be pleased to state:

(a) the strength of the Central Excise Staff in the District of Purnea (Bihar) inclusive of the transferred area;

(b) the amount spent on their establishment during 1954-55 and 1955-56 respectively; and

(c) the amount of excise duty realised from that district during the above mentioned years?

The Minister of Revenue and Civil Expenditure (Shri M. C. Shah): (a) to (c). A statement giving the required information is laid on the Table of the House. [See Appendix V, annexure No. 99]

Smuggling

1264. **Shri M. Islamuddin:** Will the Minister of Finance be pleased to state:

(a) the number of smugglers detected and convicted since 1955 on the border of Purnea;

(b) how many of the convicts were Indian and how many were Pakistanis;

(c) whether any of them held passport of either countries;

(d) the amount of penalty realised from them; and

(e) the total value of goods seized by the preventive check posts on that border during the above mentioned period?

The Minister of Revenue and Civil Expenditure (Shri M. C. Shah): (a) During the period from 1st January, 1955 to 31st October, 1956, 153 persons were detected while smuggling goods across Purnea border. All these persons were departmentally dealt with and punished. There was no prosecution and so no conviction in a court of law.

(b) and (c). Out of these 153 persons, 139 were Indians and 14 Pakistanis who held Pakistan passports.

(d) A sum of Rs. 510/- was realised as personal penalty from these persons.

(e) The total value of the goods seized by the preventive check-posts during the above-mentioned period was Rs. 5,833/-.

Payment of House Tax by Tribals

1265. **Shri Rishang Keishing:** Will the Minister of Home Affairs be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the fact that the tribal people living in the plain area of Manipur have been paying both the house tax and the land revenue while the tribals in the hills pay only the house tax and the plain people only the land revenue;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the action Government propose to take in this respect?

The Minister in the Ministry of Home Affairs (Shri Datar): (a) The house tax is payable in respect of houses owned by the tribals in the hill areas. No land revenue is collected from the tribals for lands cultivated by them in the hill areas. They pay revenue in respect of the lands which they possess and cultivate in the valley at the same rates as other people living in the plains area of the State.

(b) and (c). Do not arise.

Journals of Ministries

1266. **Sardar Lal Singh:** Will the Minister of Home Affairs be pleased to state:

(a) the names of journals produced by different Ministries and their attached offices; and

(b) the academic and technical qualifications, experience, length of service, nature of duties, present salaries and the pay scales of Editors, Assistant Editors, Sub-Editors, Translators or their counterparts performing similar journalistic duties in different Ministries?

The Minister in the Ministry of Home Affairs (Shri Datar): (a) and (b). The information is being collected and will be placed on the Table of the House in due course.

Indian Exchange

1267. **Shri Raghunath Singh:** Will the Minister of Finance be pleased to state whether it is a fact that Indian exchange and resources are being drained by the purchase of foreign goods in foreign lands by Afghanistan?

The Minister of Revenue and Civil Expenditure (Shri M. C. Shah): Afghanistan which is in the 'Transferable Account Group' is being accorded the same facilities of transfer of her export earnings in India to any other country in the same Group or to sterling area as is allowed to any other member of the same Group.