

a contribution to the deposit account of each depositor at the rate of 3½ per cent. of the employees' salary. In addition, cumulative bonus is also paid

M.E.S. Employees

1223. Shri S. M. Banerjee: Will the Minister of Defence be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that confidential reports on Class IV employees are being introduced in the M.E.S.; and

(b) if so, the reasons therefor?

The Deputy Minister of Defence (Shri Raghuramaiah): (a) Yes; they have been introduced in respect of non-industrial Class IV employees in the M.E.S. from 1956.

(b) Annual Confidential reports have been introduced in respect of non-industrial Class IV employees in all lower formations of the Ministry of Defence. They are meant to enable a record to be kept of the work and conduct of the employees as assessed by their superior officers. They will be taken into account whenever questions of confirmation, quasi-permanency, promotion or retrenchment arise.

Violation of Customs Regulations

1224. Shri N. E. Munisamy: Will the Minister of Finance be pleased to state:

(a) how many instances of infringements of various customs regulations were detected during the year 1956-57, by the Madras customs;

(b) what is the value of goods involved;

(c) how the goods were disposed of; and

(d) whether the culprits were punished?

The Deputy Minister of Finance (Shri B. R. Bhagat): (a) One

thousand two hundred and eighty instances of infringements of various customs regulations were detected during the year 1956-57 (1st April, 1956 to 31st March, 1957) by the Madras customs.

(b) The value of the goods involved was Rs. 37,01,550

(c) In 411 cases, goods were released with a warning. In 176 cases, goods were confiscated absolutely. In 693 cases, goods were confiscated with an option to redeem them on payment of fine in lieu of confiscation. In the case of goods confiscated absolutely or where the importers failed to redeem the goods on payment of fine in lieu of confiscation, the goods were mainly disposed of through auctions taken into use for Government purposes. Some goods were disposed of by private sale and a small part of the goods had to be destroyed. Some of the confiscated goods still remain to be disposed of.

(d) In addition to confiscation of goods, in 20 cases the culprits were also punished by way of imposition of personal penalty. Prosecutions were also launched in 12 cases involving 20 persons. Eleven of these cases were successful and convictions were obtained against 13 persons

Decimal Coinage

1225. Shri Manabendra Shah: Will the Minister of Finance be pleased to state:

(a) the total value of the naya paise coins of all denominations which have been put into circulation so far; and

(b) whether it is a fact that these coins are getting defaced much earlier than the old coins?

The Deputy Minister of Finance (Shri B. R. Bhagat): (a) The total value of all denominations of decimal coins put into circulation during the period April to July 1957, is about Rs. 1.6 crores.

(b) No, Sir.