

set up a low temperature Carbonisation Plant to manufacture smokeless domestic fuel at Kothagudam in Andhra Pradesh; and

(b) what will be the cost of this project and by what time will the Plant go into production?

The Minister of Steel, Mines and Fuel (Sardar Swaran Singh): (a) No, the matter is still under consideration.

(b) Does not arise.

Opium

542. Shrimati Tarkeshwari Sinha: Will the Minister of Finance be pleased to state whether Government propose to restrict progressively export of opium to other countries?

The Minister of Finance (Shri T. T. Krishnamachari): Export of opium to foreign countries is effected only against import licences issued by the Governments of the importing countries. This is to ensure that such opium is utilised solely for the production of alkaloids for medicinal purposes, or for scientific research.

In these circumstances the question of a progressive reduction of export of opium does not arise.

Appointment of Relatives of Officers in Private Firms

543. Pandit D. N. Tiwary: Will the Minister of Home Affairs be pleased to state:

(a) number of Officers who sought previous permission of Government for appointment of their relatives in private firms during the last 2 years; and

(b) number of cases where permission was withheld during the same period?

The Minister of State in the Ministry of Home Affairs (Shri Datar): (a) and (b). The information is being collected and will be placed on the Table of Lok Sabha as soon as it is available.

Property Statements

544. { Pandit D. N. Tiwary:
Shri Naval Prabhakar:

Will the Minister of Home Affairs be pleased to state:

(a) whether the instructions under the Central Civil Services (Conduct) rules requiring every member of class I & II service to submit return every year of their properties are being followed strictly;

(b) the steps taken against defaulters; and

(c) whether these returns are scrutinised and if so by what agency?

The Minister of State in the Ministry of Home Affairs (Shri Datar): (a) Yes.

(b) Defaulters in this respect are liable to be proceeded against departmentally.

(c) Yes; by the head of the office or the head of the department or the administrative Ministry, as the case may be, or any other authority prescribed for the purpose.

State Bank of India

545. Pandit D. N. Tiwary: Will the Minister of Finance be pleased to state what percentage of the rural credit was met by the State Bank of India during 1956-57 and 1957-58 so far?

The Deputy Minister of Finance (Shri B. R. Bhagat): The materials are being collected for the purpose of working out the percentage of the rural credit which was met by the State Bank of India during these periods.

Manipur Rifles

546. Shri L. Achaw Singh: Will the Minister of Home Affairs be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that nine pensioners including disabled and compulsory pensioners are still in service in the senior ranks in the Manipur Rifles; and