

(c) how far the cost of labour involved in this work increased over this period ; and

(d) the steps taken and being taken to keep the cost of building construction under check and to bring it down ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY PLANNING AND WORKS, HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI PARIMAL GHOSH) : (a) A statement showing the important materials required for construction of buildings and their costs per unit during January and June 1958, 1969 and 1970 is laid on the Table of the House. [*Placed in Library. See. No. LT—3916/70*]

(b) Taking the cost per unit for January 1968 as 100, the comparative prices are shown under each item in the statement referred to above. The increase is due to the general trend of rise in the prices of the essential commodities.

(c) Another statement showing rates of daily wages for important categories of labour, viz. Carpenter, Mason and Beldar, since 1968 is enclosed.

(d) The prices of bricks are statutorily fixed by the Delhi Administration under the Delhi Bricks (Distribution sale, movement and price) Control Order, 1963, taking into consideration the cost of various factors of production of bricks. As regards steel, apart from trying to build up the production to the extent possible, Government are trying to supplement indigenous availability by imports. The prices of the other items get regulated by the normal law of demand and supply.

SHRI R. R. SINGH DEO :  
SHRI MEETHA LAL MEENA :  
SHRI NANJA GOWDER :  
SHRI D. N. DEB :

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) the details of smuggled gold and other contraband articles recently seized in Bombay and other parts of Maharashtra ; and

(b) the action taken against the smugglers ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI VIDYA CHARAN SHUKLA) : (a) The details of the smuggled gold and other contraband articles seized in Bombay and other parts of Maharashtra during April to June, 1970 are given below :

Articles	Value (Rs. lakhs)
Gold	138.5 at international monetary rate.
Watches	55.7
Silver	18.7
Synthetic yarn and fabrics	90.0
Other articles	57.3

(b) 76 persons were arrested. Action for departmental adjudication and prosecution in Courts of Law are being taken in the light of evidence collected on investigation in each case.

**Seizure of Smuggled Gold and other Articles in Maharashtra**

2184. SHRI GADILINGANA GOWD :  
SHRI H. AJMAL KHAN :  
SHRI PILOO MODY :

**Life Insurance Corporation Wage Bill**

2185. SHRI GADILINGANA GOWD :  
SHRI N. K. SOMANI :

SHRI R. K. AMIN :  
 DR. M. SANTOSHAM :  
 SHRI PILOO MODY :  
 SHRI R. R. SINGH DEO :  
 SHRI NANJA GOWDER :  
 SHRI D. N. DEB :

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Life Insurance Corporation wage bill during the last two years has increased manifold ;

(b) if so, the details of the wage bill in 1968-69 and 1969-70 ; and

(c) whether any steps are being taken to decrease expenditure on such non-productive expenditure ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI VIDYA CHARAN SHUKLA) : (a) The wage bill of the Life Insurance Corporation has increased by about one third during the last 2 years.

(b) 1968-69	—	Rs. 34.71 crores
1969-70	—	Rs. 40.05 crores

(subject to audit)

(c) Salaries are part of the normal expenses of management of insurers, and therefore inevitable. Care is, however, taken to ensure that fresh recruitment necessitated by the increase in work is kept to the barest minimum.

#### Nationalisation of Foreign Capital in Uganda

2186. SHRI GADILINGANA GOWD :  
 SHRI N. K. SOMANI :  
 SHRI R. K. AMIN :  
 DR. M. SANTOSHAM :  
 SHRI PILOO MODY :  
 SHRI R. R. SINGH DEO :  
 SHRI NANJA GOWDER :  
 SHRI D. N. DEB :

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Uganda authorities have nationalised several foreign firms including a number of Indian banks and sugar factories ;

(b) to what extent India's foreign exchange earnings are likely to be affected and the extent to which India's investments have been affected as a result of these developments ; and

(c) whether Government have taken up this issue with the Uganda Government and if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI VIDYA CHARAN SHUKLA) : (a) The National Assembly of Uganda passed the Companies (Government and Public Bodies Participation) Act on the 6th May, 1970 under which Government or public bodies declared by the Minister as such for the purposes of the Act, were deemed to have acquired, with effect from the close of business on the 30th April, 1970, 60% of the shares of each class issued by the companies specified in Schedule I of the Act. Two of our nationalised banks, namely, Bank of Baroda and Bank of India are included in this Schedule.

The Life Insurance Corporation of India and certain Indian general insurance companies have branches in Uganda. There are not included in the Schedule presumably because they are not incorporated locally and the question of taking over 60 per cent of the shareholding would not arise. However, the Uganda authorities have been having discussions with these companies with a view to getting them to incorporate themselves locally and offer 60 per cent of the share capital to the Government of Uganda. These companies had to stop taking new business with effect from the 18th June 1970 following an amendment to the Insurance Companies Act which prohibited insurance companies from writing new business unless they were incorporated in Uganda. Discussions about the future set up of the insurance companies are still going on between the Uganda authorities and the companies concerned.

(b) It is difficult to assess extent of