

Uniform Rate of Entertainment Tax

*680. SHRI HIMATSINGKA :

SHRI RAMAVATAR SHASTRI :

Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state :

(a) whether *ad-hoc* Committee of the Delhi-U. P. exhibitors of motion pictures association had approached Government to reduce the entertainment tax at least to the level of 20 per cent of the takings on a uniform level throughout the country as a step to end the crisis in the film industry;

b) if so, whether Government have considered this proposal with a view to introduce a uniform rate of entertainment tax throughout the country;

(c) if so, Government's decision in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI K. K. SHAH) : (a) Yes Sir.

(b) and (c). The matter concerns the State Governments. A uniform entertainment tax of 20% throughout the country was also recommended by the Film Enquiry Committee, 1951. The Central Government have been in correspondence with the State Governments on the subject of rationalisation of Entertainment Tax but in view of the resultant loss in revenues, the State Governments are averse to accept the proposal. However, efforts are continuing.

Construction of Broad Gauge Railway Lines in Nepal with Indian Aid

*681. SHRI DHIRESWAR KALITA :

SHRI R. K. SINHA :

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is a proposal to construct a 44-mile Broad Gauge railway lines in Nepal connecting Bayaul and Hithuasa with Indian aid;

(b) if so, the broad details thereof; and

(c) the nature and extent of aid proposed to be given to Nepal in this respect ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI SURENDRA PAL SINGH) : (a) A proposal to examine the feasibility of constructing a Railway line connecting Raxaul in India to Hitauda in Nepal, a distance of about 40 miles, was tentatively broached with the Railway Minister by the Prime Minister of Nepal when the Railway Minister accompanied the President to Nepal in October this year. In keeping with the declared policy of the Government of India to assist the economic development of Nepal, which is a friendly and close neighbour, the Government of India have informed His Majesty's Government of Nepal that they would consider the matter with sympathy in the light of any firm proposal which the Nepal Government might wish to make in the overall context of the Indian co-operation programme in Nepal. No formal proposal has been received by the Government of India so far.

(b) and (c). Do not arise at this stage.

Electronic Computers in Defence Establishments

*682. SHRI S. M. BANERJEE : Will the MINISTER OF DEFENCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is any proposal to use Electronic Computers in the Defence Establishments;

(b) whether this will result in mass retrenchment; and

(c) if not, the steps taken to safeguard the interest of the workers ?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI SWARAN SINGH) : (a) A few Electronic Computers have already been

installed in certain Defence Establishments and installation of a few more Computers in these Organisations is in progress. A pilot study of Electronic Data Processing System on Inventory Control in the Central Ordnance Depot, Delhi Cantt. has also been sanctioned. Further extension of the system in the Defence Services will depend upon the results obtained by this study.

- (b) No, Sir.
(c) Does not arise.

Design and Blue Print of Vijayanta Tank

*683. DR. SUSHILA NAYAR : Will the MINISTER OF DEFENCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have seen the press reports that the Design and Blue Print of Vijayanta Tanks have been sent to Pakistan;

(b) whether Government have enquired into the circumstances as to how it has happened; and

(c) the action taken or proposed to be taken by Government in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI SWARAN SINGH) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c). The enquiries made by Government do not substantiate the Press reports.

Assam-West Bengal Water Transport through East Pakistan

*684. SHRI SITARAM KESRI : Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have taken up with the Government of Pakistan the question of resuming the Assam-West Bengal Water Transport Service through East Pakistan; and

(b) if so, Pakistan's response thereto ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI SURENDRA PAL SINGH) : (a) and (b). Yes Sir, ever since the signing of the Tashkent Declaration, we have been repeatedly requesting the Government of Pakistan to discuss the resumption of air, land, and river communications, alongwith other matters, in order to normalise relations between the two countries. Pakistan has not responded positively.

Diplomatic Relations with Countries

*685. SHRI GADILINGANA GOWD : Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) the new countries with which Government have established diplomatic relations during 1967-68; and

(b) whether proposals for establishing diplomatic missions in some of the Latin American Countries after her visit are under consideration of Government ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI SURENDRA PAL SINGH) : (a) During 1967-68 diplomatic relations have been established with Congo (Brazzaville) Gabon and the People's Republic of Southern Yemen.

(b) It has been decided to establish resident Missions in Venezuela and Peru.

भारत-बर्मा सीमा का सीमांकन

*686. श्री रामावतार शर्मा :

श्री रा० रा० सिंह देव :

श्री रामचन्द्र बीरप्पा :

क्या बंदेशिक-कार्य मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) क्या भारत-बर्मा सीमा के सीमांकन के बारे में बातचीत पूरी हो चुकी है ;