

received by the Company Law Board during 1964-65 and 1965-66 so far;

(b) the manner in which these have been disposed of and whether a statement will be laid on the Table; and

(c) the guide-lines and principles evolved?

The Minister of Planning (Shri B. B. Bhagat): (a) and (b). A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT

Disposals—

Year	No. of applications received	Extended for more than one year	Extended for more than one year	Rejected	With-drawn or not pursued	Pending
1964-65	230	89	75	61	4	1
1965-66 (upto 15-8-65)	383	239	114	19	9	2

(c) Each application for renewal of a managing agency contract was considered by the Company Law Board on merits under section 326 of the Companies Act, after obtaining the advice of the Company Law Advisory Commission as required under section 411 of the Companies Act, 1956. As provided by sec. 326, companies were directed to terminate the Managing Agency Agreements where the Company Law Board was not satisfied in respect of matters referred to in sub-section (2) thereof. In other cases, the Board exercised its discretion mainly on the basis of balance of advantages.

Drinking Water for Rural Areas

*224. **Shri Krishnapal Singh:** Will the Minister of Health be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that very little progress has been made in the execution of the Rural Water Supply Schemes; and

(b) if so, the steps Government propose to take in the matter?

The Minister of Health (Dr. Sushila Nayar): (a) The progress in the implementation of the Rural Water Sup-

ply Schemes has been somewhat slow in the difficult and scarcity areas where about 125 million people live and of whom only about 10 per cent have so far been provided with safe drinking water. But a rural population of about 230 millions, who reside in comparatively easier areas where simple wells and other local sources are available, has already been provided satisfactory drinking water.

(b) Special Investigation Divisions have been set up to make a preliminary survey of the difficult and scarcity rural areas in each State. Preliminary engineering schemes have been prepared by most of the Investigation Divisions. In the Fourth Plan a provision of Rs. 195 crores has been suggested as against a provision of Rs. 16.33 crores for water supply and drainage schemes in the rural areas in the Third Plan.

Exchange Value of Rupee

*225. {
 Shri V. B. Gandhi:
 Shri Indrajit Gupta:
 Shri Vasudevan Nair:
 Shri P. R. Patel:
 Shri Hem Raj:
 Shri Sham Lal Saraf:

Will the Minister of Finance be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware

of the prevailing shortage of international liquidity; and

(b) whether Government have any plans to protect the exchange value of the rupee in view of these circumstances and, if so, what are these plans?

The Minister of Planning (Shri B. R. Bhagat): (a) The question of international liquidity is under active discussion in the International Monetary Fund and other international forums.

(b) Government is keeping in close touch with these discussions and participating in them with a view to ensure that the outcome is in the best interests of the country.

Repairs to Ministers' Houses

*226. { **Dr. M. S. Aney:**
Shri Gauri Shankar Kakkar:
Shri Siddiah:
Shri Ramshekhar Prasad Singh:

Will the Minister of Works and Housing be pleased to state:

(a) the actual amount spent on the repairs and alterations in the houses occupied by the Ministers in Delhi during the year 1964-65;

(b) the amount spent in providing furniture and other establishment to the houses of Ministers during the above period; and

(c) the amount spent on their maintenance including electric and water charges?

The Minister of Works and Housing (Shri Mehr Chand Khanna): (a) to (c). The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the Sabha.

Company Secretaries

*227. **Maharajkumar Vijaya Ananda:** Will the Minister of Finance be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have taken any steps to make it compulsory to appoint qualified Company Secretaries, who had passed the Secretarial

course examination conducted by the Company Law Administration in all the Public Undertakings;

(b) if so, when this will come into force; and

(c) if not, why not?

The Minister of Planning (Shri B. R. Bhagat): (a) No.

(b) The question does not arise.

(c) Government hope that qualified Company Secretaries, by virtue of their training, will be able to make a contribution to the efficient management of companies, and thereby create a demand for their services. They see no reason, at least at present, to compel the companies to employ such persons irrespective of whether or not the companies themselves feel the need for their services.

Official Exchange Rate of Dollar

*228. **Shri S. B. Patil:** Will the Minister of Finance be pleased to state:

(a) the official exchange rate of the Dollar;

(b) whether Government are aware of the fact that the rate for the Dollar, which was quoted at Rs. 7.75 at the beginning of the year went up to Rs. 7.80 early in April and was Rs. 8.10 in the last week of June, 1965; and

(c) if so, the reaction of the Government to this rise and the steps taken or proposed to be taken in the matter?

The Minister of Planning (Shri B. R. Bhagat): (a) At the official exchange rate one U.S. dollar equals 4.76190 rupees.

(b) and (c). All authorised foreign exchange transactions between dollars and rupees are carried at a rate deviating by not more than one per cent either way of the official exchange rate. The rates mentioned by the hon. Member presumably relate to illegal and secretive transactions. Government is making