

investments on account of PL 480 deposits went up by Rs. 273 crores. Devaluation also resulted in the cost of debt servicing and of Government imports including food and fertilizer imports going up by Rs. 371 crores. Taking the above and a few other items the effect of devaluation on the budgetary position of the Centre during 1966-67 was a net deficit of about Rs. 45 crores.

DEVALUATION OF POUND STERLING

4282. SHRI RABI RAY :
SHRI NITIRAJ SINGH CHAUDHARY :
SHRI CHARANJIT RAI :

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state the steps taken by Government to see that the Indian Rupee's value is not diminished in the context of the devaluation of the pound-sterling by U.K.?

THE DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER AND MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI MORARJI DESAI) : In my statement to the Parliament on the 20th November, 1967, I have categorically said that the exchange rate of the rupee in terms of gold or U.S. dollars will remain unchanged and will not be affected by the U.K. devaluation. I have also repeated that the par value of the Indian rupee will not be changed. Thus, the question does not arise.

SUICIDE CASES

4283. SHRI RABI RAY : Will the Minister of HEALTH, FAMILY PLANNING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that an interim report about suicides between the period from 1st to 30th September, 1967 has been submitted by the Director of Psychological Research, Ministry of Defence to the Indian Council of Medical Research;

(b) if so, the findings thereof; and

(c) the steps taken by Government to implement them?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH, FAMILY

PLANNING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI B. S. MURTHY) : (a) Yes. The interim report only deal with the etiological factors.

(b) The analysis showed that the suicides mostly occurred amongst low income groups and among people in the prime of their lives who possibly felt the futility of their existence in the face of tensions resulting from marital discord, discord with parents/guardians, chronic physical and mental illness and economic stress.

(c) The study in regard to preventive measures has not yet been completed.

BUDGETING PROCEDURE IN IOC

4284. SHRI N. K. P. SALVE : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS be pleased to state :

(a) whether budgeting procedure in the Indian Oil Corporation has been reoriented in order to make budgeting control by the top management effective;

(b) whether it is a fact that the actual amalgamation of the Indian Refineries Limited and the Indian Oil Company Limited has achieved the intended objectives of economic efficiency and co-ordination; and

(c) if so, the reasons for the uneconomical working of this public undertaking?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS AND OF SOCIAL WELFARE (SHRI RAGHU RAMAIAH) : (a) and (b). Yes, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

FOREIGN LOANS

4285. SHRI KANWAR LAL GUPTA : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that some countries have reduced the rate of interest on the loans advanced by them; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER AND MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI MORARJI DESAI) : (a) Yes, Sir.