

**उप-प्रधान मंत्री तथा वित्त मंत्री (श्री मोरारजी देसाई) :** (क) जी नहीं, लेकिन पंजाब राज्य सहकारी बैंक (पंजाब स्टेट कोऑपरेटिव बैंक) को 1967-68 में कुल 30.49 करोड़ रुपये तक का ऋण देना मंजूर किया गया है।

(ख) पंजाब राज्य सहकारी बैंक को, खास कर उर्वरक खरीदने और बांटने के लिए पांच करोड़ रुपये तक का ऋण देना मंजूर किया गया है। कृषि-सम्बन्धी मौसमी कार्यों के सम्बन्ध में (जिनमें) उर्वरकों की खरीद भी शामिल हो सकती है) या फसलों के वितरण के सम्बन्ध में वित्त-व्यवस्था करने के लिये 20.24 करोड़ रुपये तक के अल्पकालिक ऋण देना भी मंजूर किया गया है।

(ग) जी, नहीं।

(घ) यह सवाल पैदा ही नहीं होता।

#### BLINDNESS IN INDIA

976. SHRI N. K. SOMANI: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY PLANNING be pleased to state:

(a) the number of blind persons in the country;

(b) whether it is a fact that a majority of blind cases are due to trachoma, small-pox, malnutrition and injuries; and

(c) if so, whether Government have a national programme for the control of blindness?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH, FAMILY PLANNING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT (DR. S. CHANDRASEKHAR):

(a) According to the results based on the data collected during the survey conducted by the Trachoma Control Pilot project under the Indian Council of Medical Research in 1958-63, there were about 4.5 million blind persons in the country.

(b) Yes. The major causes of blindness were noted to be Trachoma, Small-pox, nutritional deficiency and injuries. This is

excluding cataract as a cause of blindness since it is a curable disability.

(c) The Government have not specific National programmes for the control of blindness as such but National Programmes for the control of Trachoma, Small-pox and Nutritional deficiencies are already in operation. There are many voluntary organisations working for the prevention of blindness such as the National Society for the Prevention of Blindness and the National Association for the Blind.

#### FERTILIZER PLANT BASED ON AMMONIA

977. SHRI N. K. SOMANI: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the policy for import of raw material for the manufacture of fertilizers has now been revised in view of Shri J. R. D. Tata's offer to base a plant in Gujarat on imported ammonia;

(b) the present estimates of the use and availability of Naphtha for the next ten years; and

(c) whether adequate arrangements for timely availability of rock phosphate have been made for the phosphate fertilizer industry in view of the economic situation prevailing in the Arab region?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS AND OF SOCIAL WELFARE (SHRI RAGHU RAMAIAH):

(a) No, Sir. Incidentally, no detailed proposals have so far been received from Tatas.

(b) Estimates of the supply and demand of naphtha upto 1975-76 are now being compiled. Upto 1970-71, naphtha production in the country is expected to be surplus to our requirements.

(c) Yes Sir.

#### FOREIGN EXCHANGE GIVEN FOR VISITS ABROAD

978. SHRI N. K. SOMANI: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of Indians allowed to visit foreign countries during the last three

years and the foreign exchange sanctioned on such trips;

(b) the number of women out of them and the amount sanctioned to them; and

(c) the reasons for their travel?

THE DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER AND MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI MORARJI DESAI) : (a) Total payments on 'travel abroad' for various purposes such as Education, Business, Health, etc. for the last three years are as under :

1964	Rs. 10.34 Crores
1965	Rs. 11.34 Crores
1966	Rs. 12.10 Crores

Details regarding number of persons who were allowed to go abroad on release of foreign exchange are not readily available and the Reserve Bank will need to collect such data from their regional Offices, Authorised Dealers, etc.

(b) & (c). There is no separate or special policy for travel by women. Women wishing to travel abroad will become eligible for foreign exchange if they fulfil the criteria applicable to various categories of travel on their own merits. Separate data on travel by women is not maintained. In view of the general policy, the efforts involved in collecting such data will not be commensurate with the results achieved.

#### LIFT IRRIGATION SCHEMES BY SOCIAL WELFARE FUNDS

979. SHRI V. NARASIMHA RAO : Will the Minister of SOCIAL WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that streams flow in the Agency areas in Srikakulam, Visakhapatnam and West Godavari in Andhra Pradesh having water in all the seasons;

(b) whether there is a proposal for lift irrigation schemes by electricity by his Department;

(c) if so, the estimated amount provided for the purpose during the current year; and

(d) if the reply to part (b) above be in the negative, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL WELFARE (SHRIMATI PHULRENU GUHA) : (a) There are some perennial streams in these areas.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) and (d). Do not arise.

#### PRIMARY GOLD

980. SHRI SARJOO PANDEY : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have issued an Ordinance against the possession of primary gold beyond the 31st August, 1967;

(b) if so, whether there has been any appreciable surrender of primary gold as a result of this measure; and

(c) if so, the quantity thereof?

THE DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER AND MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI MORARJI DESAI) : (a) No ordinance has been issued by the Government. Rule 9 of the Defence of India (Fourth Amendment) Rules, 1966, has the effect of banning private possession of primary gold after the expiry of a period of six months from the commencement of those rules. The said Rule 9 came into force on 1-3-1967; accordingly, no person other than a licensed dealer, certified goldsmith or licensed refiner can either own or have in his possession, custody or control any primary gold after 31-8-1967.

(b) and (c). Information is being collected and will be laid on the table of the House.

#### अर्थों के लिये दुकानें

981. श्री ना० स्व० शर्मा : क्या निर्माण, आवास तथा पूति मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) क्या यह सच है कि सरकार उन विकलांग और अंधे व्यक्तियों को, जो कुछ काम करके जीविका कमाना चाहते हैं, प्राथमिकता के आधार पर दुकानें अलाट करने की सुविधा प्रदान करती है।