

**THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH, FAMILY PLANNING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI B. S. MURTHY) :** (a) No.

(b) The Indian Nursing Council considered the Syllabus for an abridged general nursing course of 18 months duration for the junior male nurses prepared by the Andaman and Nicobar Administration. Since male nurses have been performing the duties of staff nurses for many years, the Council did not consider further training necessary for them.

**PORT BLAIR MUNICIPAL BOARD**

5388. **SHRI AMRIT NAHATA :** Will the Minister of HEALTH, FAMILY PLANNING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether the grant for the Port Blair Municipal Board has been sanctioned for 1967-68;

(b) whether the development grant for 1967-68 has also been sanctioned; and

(c) if not, the reasons for the delay ?

**THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH, FAMILY PLANNING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI B. S. MURTHY) :** (a) Yes. Approval of the Government of India was accorded on 25th August, 1967 to the release by the Chief Commissioner, Andaman and Nicobar Islands, of a sum of Rs. 1.00 lakh only to the Port Blair Municipal Board, out of the total provision of Rs. 2.00 lakhs during 1967-68 for meeting its budget deficit.

(b) Yes. Approval of the Government of India was accorded on 25th August, 1967 to the release by the Chief Commissioner, Andaman and Nicobar Islands of a sum of Rs. 62,500 only to the Port Blair Municipal Board, out of the total provision of Rs. 1,25,000 for development works during 1967-68.

(d) Does not arise.

**REMOVAL OF SALT TAX**

5389. **SHRI C. CHITTYBABU :** Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state whether here is any proposal for the removal of the salt-tax ?

**THE DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER & MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI MORARJI DESAI) :** There is no Central Excise duty on salt at present. Cess is, however, leviable on salt and Government of India have no proposal under consideraion for its withdrawal.

**SARASWATHI MAHAL LIBRARY**

5390. **SHRI C. CHITTYBABU :** Will the Minister of HEALTH, FAMILY PLANNING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that the research scheme of Saraswathi Mahal Library at Tanjore for Ayurveda and Siddha formulated by Madras Government in consultation with the Central Government and sent for sanction is pending with Government; and

(b) if so, the reasons therefor and the action taken thereon ?

**THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH, FAMILY PLANNING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI B. S. MURTHY) :** (a) and (b). No research scheme of Saraswathi Mahal Library at Tanjore for Ayurveda and Siddha formulated by the Madras Government in consultation with the Central Government is pending with the Government of India. However, the Governing Committee of the Literary Research Unit at the Saraswathi Mahal Library established by the Government of India has formulated a proposal for the expansion of the existing unit which is under consideration.

**L.I.C. LOANS FOR HOUSE-BUILDING**

5391. **SHRI NITIRAJ SINGH CHAUDHARY :** Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) the towns in the country where the Life Insurance Corporation has begun advancing money for house-building;