

(c) the names of Indian Personnel who are likely to take part in that meeting?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING (SHRI MOHAN DHARIA): (a). No, Sir.

The next meeting of the Indo-Soviet Joint Commission is likely to be held sometime in 1974.

(b) and (c). The subjects proposed to be discussed at the meeting and the names of the Indian personnel who are likely to take part in that meeting will be decided in due course.

**Increase in the number of Chances for Assistants' Grade Examination of U.P.S.C.**

7465. SHRI MUKHTIAR SINGH MALIK: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to refer to the reply given to Starred Question No. 131 on the 22nd November, 1972 regarding enhancement of age limit and increase in number of chances for Assistants' Grade Examination of U.P.S.C. and state:

(a) whether the position regarding increase in the number of chances from two to three for the Assistants' Grade Examination has been reviewed by the Government following the decision taken on I.A.S. Examination; and

(b) if not, the time by which the decision will be arrived at?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS AND IN THE DEPARTMENT OF PERSONNEL (SHRI RAM NIWAS MIRDHA): (a) and (b). The decision to allow 3 chances in the I.A.S., etc. Examination to be held this year is a purely transitional measure. The final position will be known next year when the question

of any changes required in the examination for other services including the Assistant's Grade will be examined.

**Reorganisation of Planning Commission**

7466. SHRI MUKHTIAR SINGH MALIK:  
SHRI ARJUN SETHI:

Will the Minister of PLANNING be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal under the consideration of Government to re-organise the Planning Commission to improve the functioning of some of its divisions; and

(b) if so, the broad outlines thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING (SHRI MOHAN DHARIA): (a) and (b). Proposals to reorganise and strengthen the Industry and Minerals Division as well as the Monitoring and Information Division are presently under consideration with a view to improving the process of planning as well as the implementation of programmes in the key sectors of the economy.

**Paper and Pulp Project in North Bengal**

7467. SHRI R. N. BARMAN:  
SHRI B. K. DASCHOWDHURY:

Will the Minister of INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT AND SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state whether Government propose to establish a Paper and Pulp manufacturing project in the public sector in North Bengal based on local raw material available there in large quantities?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI PRANAB KUMAR MUKHERJEE): At present there is no proposal under consideration for setting up a Paper and Pulp manufacturing project in the public Sector in North Bengal.

**Backward Region Development Authority**

7468. SHRI R. N. BARMAN

SHRI B. K. DASCHOWDHURY:

Will the Minister of INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT AND SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether his Ministry is considering formation of a Backward Region Development Authority in order to develop infrastructure in backward regions in consultation with the State Governments to augment industrial development; and

(b) if not, what other steps his Ministry proposes to take to bring about a radical change for the development of backward regions?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI ZIAUR RAHMAN ANSARI): (a) and (b) While the Central Government together with the States and financial institutions have provided for certain incentives to attract investment and industries to Backward areas/Districts, no final view has been taken on formation of Backward Region Development Authority.

**Acceptance of Purses by Ministers at Public Functions**

7469. SHRI BHAGIRATH BHANWAR: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have evolved a policy regarding the ac-

ceptance of purses by the Central and State Government Ministers at public functions;

(b) whether any rules regarding the utilisation of money received in the form of purses presented at public meetings have been codified or it is left to the discretion of the persons receiving it; and

(c) the number of Central Ministers who have been presented purses at public functions and the amount of money so received during the last two years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS AND IN THE DEPARTMENT OF PERSONNEL (SHRI RAM NIWAS MIRDHA): (a) to (c) Provisions regarding the acceptance and disposal of purses presented to Ministers are contained in para 3 of the Code of Conduct for Ministers. A copy of this code was laid on the Table of the Lok Sabha on 18-11-1964. That *para inter alia* provides that if any purse or cheque intended for a registered society, or a charitable body, or an institution recognized by a public authority, or a political party is presented to a Minister, he should pass it on as soon as possible to the organisation for which it intended. There is no provision in the Code of Conduct requiring the Central Ministers to report to the Prime Minister the receipt of any purse by them.

**Inadequate Communication system in Jodhpur Division of Rajasthan**

7470. SHRIMATI KRISHNA KUMARI OF JODHPUR: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that the Communication system in the Jodhpur Division of Rajasthan is not adequate; and

(b) if so, the steps Government propose to take to improve the communications system suitably?