

under the Foreign exchange Regulation Act and also for preventive detention under the Conservation of Foreign Exchange and Prevention of Smuggling Activities Act.

Passport applications pending in Cochin passport office

2298. SHRI VAKKOM PURU-SHOTHAMAN: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) the number of passport applications pending in Cochin passport office as on 30th June, 1986; and

(b) the steps taken by Government to expedite the disposal of these applications ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI K. R. NARAYANAN) : (a) Number of passport applications pending in the Regional Passport Office, Cochin as on 30.6 1986 was as follows :

Within three months	:	10565
Over three months	:	2060
Over six months	:	60

Total	:	12685

(b) Passport are generally issued within a week after receipt of clear Police reports from the State Police Headquarters and Dist. Police authorities. Delay in issue of passports is mainly due to non-receipt of police clearance reports. The Regional Passport Officer, Cochin has been instructed to remind the concerned police authorities in case the reports are pending for over three months. The Passport Officer has also been advised to keep close liaison with the State and District police authorities to expedite police clearance reports in respect of pending passport applications.

[Translation]

Setting up of head office of Allahabad Bank in Uttar Pradesh

2299. SHRI HARISH RAWAT : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is any proposal to set up a head office of Allahabad Bank at some place in Uttar Pradesh;

(b) if so, where and by what time it is likely to be set up; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY) : (a) No, Sir. -

(b) Does not arise

(c) The Head Office of Allahabad Bank has been functioning at Calcutta from 1923 onwards. Government are of the view that shifting of the Head Office to a place in Uttar Pradesh is not likely to result in any perceptible improvement in the functioning of the bank.

U. P. Government request for increased allocation of funds

2300. SHRI HARISH RAWAT : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that Uttar Pradesh Government has asked for increased percentage of its share in allocation of funds to the State;

(b) if so, Government's reaction thereto; and

(c) the total amount of short term deposit of savings mobilised through various sources in Uttar Pradesh during 1985-86 and the percentage out of that amount allotted to Uttar Pradesh for carrying out developmental works ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF EXPENDITURE (SHRI B. K. GADHVI) : (a) The State Government wrote in November, 1984 to the Prime Minister requesting for a change in the distribution of Central assistance being provided under the Gadgil Formula.

(b) Decision on this has to be taken by the National Development Council and they

have not recommended any change in the existing formula of Central assistance to States, during the Seventh Plan period.

(c) A total amount of Rs. 471.69 crores was collected through small savings in Uttar Pradesh during 1985-86. 79.96 percent of this amount has been released to Uttar Pradesh during 1985-86.

Facility of helicopter service for viewing ranges of Himalayas

2301. SHRI HARISH RAWAT : Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Ministry has taken a decision to provide facility of helicopter service to those who are interested in having bird's eye view of mountain ranges of Himalaya; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and the time by which this scheme is likely to be introduced ?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM (MUFTI MOHD. SYED) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Question does not arise.

Proposal to amalgamate small banks

2302. SHRI HARISH RAWAT : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether any proposal has been received from the U. P. Government for amalgamation of certain small banks into one bank; and

(b) if so, when this proposal was received and the steps proposed to be taken by Government in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY) : (a) and (b). Presumably the Honourable Member is referring to certain proposals made by the then Chief Minister of Uttar Pradesh in January, 1985 one of which was that a U. P. based bank

be set up by amalgamating the private sector banks operating in the State. The proposal was examined by the Government. Setting up of a bank by amalgamating the U. P. based private sector banks was not considered to be a viable proposition.

[English]

Illegal transfer of foreign exchange

2303. SHRI NARAYAN CHAUBEY : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the attention of Government has been drawn to a report appearing in the weekly "New Age" dated 6th July, 1986 under the caption "Illegal outflow" according to which 10,000 million dollars have gone out of India in the last 10 years through illegal transfer; and

(b) if so, reaction of Government thereto and the steps taken by Government to combat illegal transfer of capital ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY) : (a) and (b). The Government is alive to the problem of foreign exchange racketeering. It is, however, not possible to ascertain the exact amount of capital which has gone out of India through illegal channels. The Enforcement Directorate (FERA) remains vigilant in this regard and takes appropriate action under the F. E. R. Act and also for preventive detention under the COFEPOSA, against such racketeers. The drive against such unauthorised transactions is a continuous process and the matter is kept under constant review for taking appropriate administrative/legislative measures with a view to curbing the same.

Credit camps in West Bengal

2304. SHRI NARAYAN CHAUBEY : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) the number of credit camps held in West Bengal during 1985 and 1986 so far.

(b) the names of places where the credit camps were held; and