

[English]

Subsidy to Coffee Grower

3826. SHRIK. MURALEEDHARAN: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to increase the amount of loan and subsidy to coffee growers; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) and (b) The Coffee Board had proposed an increase in the existing scales of finance under their loan and subsidy schemes as part of the VIIIth Plan proposals. Scheme-wise details of Coffee Board's VIIIth Plan are yet to be finalised to be finalised and a decision on any increase will be taken only at that time.

Illegal Heroin Laboratories

3827. SHRI BIJOY KRISHNAHAN-DIQUE: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether scores of illegal heroin laboratories are in clandestine operation in the opium belt of Uttar Pradesh;

(b) whether the Narcotics Control Bureau have adequate staff to curb the trade; and

(c) the steps taken by the Government to monitor effectively the illegal opium production?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI RAMESHWAR THAKUR): (a) During the last five years, 19 make-shift laboratories engaged in production of heroin were unearthed and

destroyed in Uttar Pradesh by various enforcement agencies.

(b) Various enforcement agencies under the State and Central Government are responsible for taking action against drug traffickers. The Narcotics Control Bureau was created by the Central Government as an agency under the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Act, 1985. One of its main function is to coordinate action taken by various other agencies in drug abuse control matters. It is also having a small contingent of striking force located in few important cities in the country which includes Varanasi in Uttar Pradesh.

(c) Periodic surveys are conducted by various agencies in order to identify illicit cultivation of opium poppy. Whenever, illicit cultivation is noticed, it is promptly destroyed. Vigil is also maintained over the licit cultivation of opium with a view to preventing its diversion to illicit channels.

Construction of Roads in Border Areas

3828. SHRI PETER G. MARBANIANG: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the four Border Area Roads along the Meghalaya- Bangladesh Border under the Sensitive Border Area Road Programme handed over by the state Government to the Border Road Organisation, has been completed;

(b) the total amount originally sanctioned on each road item-wise.

(c) the actual amount spent till date in each case; and

(d) the terms and conditions between the State Public Works Department and the executing agency on entrustment of the Roads?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI SHARAD PAWAR): (a) The road from Lynghat to Dawki has been completed in all respects; the other three roads are yet to be completed.

(b) and (c). The original sanction was for a consolidated amount of Rs. 20 crores. The expenditure incurred upto January, 1992 is about Rs. 21.5 crores.

(d) The Govt. of Meghalaya entrusted the construction, improvement and maintenance of these four roads for the BRDB, subject to the following condition;—

- (i) The improvement/construction of the roads shall also include bridges and culverts.
- (ii) Maintenance costs of the roads would be borne by BRDB during the construction period.
- (iii) Local Casual Labourers will be employed by BRO to the maximum extent.
- (iv) Subject to other conditions being equal, preference will be given to local contractors while awarding the works.
- (v) An Executive Engineer of Meghalaya Govt. will be engaged by the BRO for liaison work.

Naval Armament Depot

3829. **SHRI RAMESH CHENNITHALA:** Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal for the development of Naval Armament Depot, Cohin; and

(b) if so, details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI SHARAD PAWAR): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

[*Translation*]

Extension of Banking Services in North-Eastern Region

3830. **KUMARI UMA BHARTI:** Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are considering any action plan for extending banking services in the north eastern region;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI DALBIR SINGH): (a) to (c). Under the 1985-90 branch licensing policy 569 centres were allotted to different banks for opening branches in North Eastern region. Of these, the banks have opened 349 branches and 220 licences are pending. Since the non-opening of branches at the allotted centres will result in the continuance of the spatial gap in banking facilities, the validity period of licences pending has been extended upto 31.3.1992. Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has set up a Task Force at its Regional Office at Guwahati to monitor the progress of the utilisation of pending licences. Requests for substitution of centres are being entertained by RBI for those centres where the State Government is not in a position to provide infrastructural facilities in the near future. Under the extant licensing Policy (1990-95), RBI has allotted 26 localities in urban areas for opening branches in North Eastern States. Regarding semi-urban centres, RBI had advised the banks to submit their consolidated proposals for opening of branches during the period 1990-91 to 1992-93. The proposals have