

(iii) Excavation of the tail section of the Kakatiya Canal to serve as an escarpment (KM 267-284).

(b) The Section from 284 kms to 347 kms of Kankathya Canal was not included by the State Government in the project posed to the Bank.

Accumulation of Arrears of work in Banks Due to Shortage of Staff.

8586. SHRI AJOY BISWAS : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that due to shortage of staff in the nationalised banks including Reserve Bank of India the arrears of work are getting accumulated and the customer services are affected; and

(b) if so, the steps Government propose to take to overcome the situation ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY) : (a) and (b). Most of the nationalised banks have reported that they have adequate staff to ensure that there are no arrears of work and customer services are maintained. Other banks, including Reserve Bank of India, have reported that the services of existing staff are so deployed as to ensure that there is no accumulation of work and customer services are not affected.

Closure of Tea Gardens of Assam

8587. SHRI BHADRESHWAR TANTI : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government are aware that as many as 35 tea gardens in Assam are closed for about a year;

(b) if so, the action taken or proposed to be taken for re-opening of the same;

(c) whether Government propose to take over the management of the said gardens; and

(d) if not, the reasons thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES (SHRI P. SHIV SHANKER) : (a) to (b). Tea industry is by and large doing well and incidence of sickness has come down to a marginal level. No cases of prolonged closure have been reported after 1982 except stray incidents or problems. Take over of management of gardens which have been closed for a long period or are in abandoned state may not be a viable solution for tackling sickness. Remedies have to be found on a case by case basis. The policy followed is broadly on the lines for other industries. Various developmental measures have been initiated to improve productivity or minimise the incidences of sickness.

Hindi Officers in Collectorate of Central Excise and Customs

8588. SHRI GANGA RAM : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) the total number of posts of Hindi Officers lying vacant in the various collectorates of Central Excise and Customs under his Ministry and the names of stations where these posts are lying vacant;

(b) the steps taken or proposed to be taken to fill up the above vacancies; and

(c) the total number of Hindi Officers already working in the subordinate offices of Central Board of Excise and Customs and their places of posting ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY) : (a) 10 posts of Hindi Officers are at present lying vacant in the Guntur, Madurai, Madras, Bhubaneshwar, Shillong, Kanpur, Meerut and Chandigarh Central Excise Collectorates and Goa and Madras Custom Houses.

(b) Action has already been initiated to fill up the vacancies according to the recruitment rules.

(c) There are 23 Hindi Officers working in the sub-ordinate and attached offices of the Central Board of Excise and Customs. They are posted at Delhi, Jaipur, Patna,