

(c) The information is being collected and will be laid on the table of the House.

Abolition of Octroi

1100. SHRI U. H. PATEL: Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether action is being taken to abolish octroi;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) what help Union Government propose to provide in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI DALBIR SINGH): (a) to (c). On the basis of a resolution passed in a Meeting of the Central Council for Local Government and Urban Development, Govt. of India have set up a 'Committee on Octroi' to examine the Question of augmenting the resources of Local Bodies taking into account the need to make good the loss which they would sustain in the event of abolition of octroi. The Committee has completed its deliberations and its report is expected to be presented to the Govt. soon.

Demand for Higher Rates by Helicopter Corporation of India

1101. SHRI VISHNU MODI: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Helicopter Corporation of India are demanding higher rates for carrying men and material to oil rigs in Bombay High, as compared to the foreign contractors; and

(b) if so, reaction of the Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION AND MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM (SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER): (a) and (b). The rates proposed to be charged

by Pawan Hans (Helicopter Corporation of India) are higher than the rates currently being charged by foreign companies. The difference is due to the fact that the helicopters of the foreign companies are very old and totally depreciated whereas the helicopters of Pawan Hans are brand new and consequently the figures for insurance premium, depreciation and obsolescence reserve are higher.

Ravindra Rangshala

1102. SHRI BASUDEB ACHARIA:
SHRI AJAY BISWAS:
SHRI ANANDA PATHAK:

Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) the object with which Ravindra Rangshala in New Delhi was built and the purposes for which it was intended to be used;

(b) whether it is being used presently for purposes other than originally intended; and

(c) if so, the reasons therefor and whether Government propose to restore this national asset to its original objects?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI A.K. PANJA): (a) The theatre was built by the Rabindra Nath Tagore Centenary Committee, a private registered society, to commemorate the birth centenary of Gurudev Rabindra Nath Tagore and was planned in such a way that the same stage and auditorium could be used for dramas, ballets, dance shows, film shows etc.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

Problems connected with Quality of Drinking Water

1103. SHRI D. B. PATIL: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:—