

Orders issued by the Government under the Jute Packaging Materials (Compulsory Use in Packing Commodities) Act, 1987. Govt. of India took immediate steps to defend these cases in various High Courts. As different High Courts were giving conflicting orders/judgements in respect of these petitions, Govt. moved the Supreme Court and got these cases transferred there for vacating the interim stays granted by the High Courts. On 10th May, 1988 the Supreme Court vacated the orders passed by several High Courts on the operation of the Reservation Orders. This has enabled the Government to implement the Mandatory Orders in respect of usage of jute packaging materials by different sectors of the economy. The main matter is still under consideration of Supreme Court for final disposal.

Centrally sponsored Irrigation Scheme of Maharashtra

2705. SHRI ASHOK SHANKARRAO CHAVAN: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of Centrally sponsored irrigation schemes with cost in each case in the country; and

(b) the number of such schemes in Maharashtra and the amount spent thereon so far?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRIMATI KRISHNA SAHI): (a) and (b). The information is given in the Statement below.

(Rs. in Lakhs)

<i>Name of the Scheme</i>	<i>7th Plan allocation for the scheme for the entire country in the central sector</i>	<i>Central assistance released to Maharashtra during the 7th Plan to the end of 1987-88</i>
1	2	3
1. Command Area Development Programme.	50000	4496
2. Strengthening groundwater and surface water (minor irrigation) organisations.	2500	121.95
3. Encouraging irrigation through the use of sprinklers, drip system, hydrams, water turbines, man or animal operated pumps.	1000	35.46
4. Ractification of diesel pump sets.	500	2.10
5. Census of Minor irrigation schemes.	350.00	12.00
6. Rationalisation of minor irrigation statistics.	450.00	NIL

Import of Luxury Items

of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

2706. SHRI R.P. DAS: Will the Minister

(a) the luxury items allowed to be im-

ported during 1984 to 1987; and

(b) the value thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P.R. DASMUNSI): (a) and (b). Import of consumer durables, which include luxury items, is not normally allowed. Some items of personal use are allowed under transfer of residence rules as baggage. Gifts of articles are also allowed in certain cases. In all such cases, no outflow of foreign exchange is involved.

Bank Loans to Minorities

2707. SHRI G.M. BANATWALLA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether in terms of the Reserve Bank of India directive to banks to improve and monitor credit flow to minorities, the banks are required to submit any returns of their advances to minorities;

(b) if so, which are the minorities specified in these returns;

(c) the total amount advanced, as on the date of last returns, by each of the nationalised bank to each of the minorities mentioned in the said returns and likewise what was the number of borrowed accounts; and

(d) the total amount of advances by each of the lead banks in the 40 districts identified as having high minority concentration, to each of the minorities mentioned in the return and the number of the borrowed accounts?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC AFFAIRS IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Christians, Muslims, Neo-buddhists, Sikhs and Zoroastrians have been specified as minority communities in the return prescribed by Reserve Bank of India

(c) and (d). The information is being collected and to the extent available, will be laid on the Table of the House.

[*Translation*]

Alleged Harassment to Moolchand Sharbati Devi Hospital Trust, Meerut, by Income Tax Officials

2708. SHRI KALI PRASAD PANDEY: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the 'Moolchand Sharbati Devi Hospital Trust, Meerut' has made complaints to the Central Board of Direct Taxes and the Finance Ministry in March and May, 1988 about the harassment allegedly caused to them by the Income Tax officials there; and

(b) if so, the points made in the complaint and the action so far taken against the concerned officials?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI A.K. PANJA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) A Statement is given below.

STATEMENT

The main allegations made in the complaint referred to in part (a) of the Question are that the assessing officer impounded certain documents without making any entry in the order sheet; that he had made back-dated entries in the order sheet; that he was making fishing inquiries and thereby harassing the assessee; and that his orders were perverse and against law and record. The complainant also sought permission of the Central Board of Direct Taxes to prosecute the officer under certain provisions of the Indian Penal Code. On making inquiries, the Commissioner of Income-tax, Meerut, is of the opinion that the allegations against the officer are not tenable. The Central Board of