

10. *Countermanding of elections on account of death of any Independent candidate:*

It was decided that law be got amended so that the election may not be countermanded on the death of an independent candidate.

Formal proposals from the Election Commission are awaited.

11. *Electronic Voting Machines:*

Electronic voting machines should be introduced ail over the country as early as possible.

This is already under consideration as part of the proposals for electoral reforms.

12. *Problem of non-serious candidates.*

Stringent action should be taken for discouraging such persons from entering the election fray.

This is already under consideration as part of the proposals for electoral reforms.

#### **Comprehensive Plan for Flood Protection**

393. SHRI SHANTILAL PATEL:  
SHRI S.M.GURADDI :

Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Union Government have urged the State Governments to adopt a comprehensive area approach while providing flood protection in their respective States;

(b) if so, whether Government had cir-

culated a model flood plain zoning Bill to the State Government in 1975;

(c) if so, how many States have enacted the legislation; and

(d) the main reasons for not introducing the legislation by the remaining State Governments?

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE AND MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI B.SHANKARANAND) :  
(a) and (b). Yes, Sir.

(c) and (d). Manipur has enacted legislation, and Assam has sent the draft Bill for comments and advice. The other States have not been able to take a final decision with a few indicating that flood problem in their territory is not of such magnitude as to require legislative measures.

#### **Castor Seeds Import Under Advance Licensing Scheme to Promote Export of Castor Oil**

394. SHRI SHANTILAL PATEL : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have permitted Import of castor seeds under the advance licensing scheme to promote export of castor oil;

(b) whether many exporters are yet to be provided import licences;

(c) if so, how many applications are pending for issuing licences; and

(d) the reasons for delay and by what time these will be cleared?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P.R. DASMUNSI): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) No, Sir, The licences against the applications which were complete in all respects have been issued.

(c) and (d). Do not arise.

#### **Call for Tackling Industrial Sickness**

395. SHRI SHANTILAL PATEL:  
SHRI S.M.GURADDI :

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the commercial banks had been asked to set up zonal and regional level forums for continuous interaction with the State Governments and financial institutions to tackle the problem of industrial sickness;

(b) if so, whether any concrete formula/proposal has been made in this regard to the commercial banks;

(c) if so, the particulars thereof; and

(d) the areas of industrial sickness where it is high?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC AFFAIRS IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO) : (a) to (c). RBI has reported that the commercial banks had been advised to set up special cells at their Head/Central Offices and at important Regional/Zonal centres having concentration of sick industrial accounts for attending to various issues relating to sick industrial units. RBI has again advised banks in 1987 to set up a nodal point at a level below Head Office/Circle Office to attend to various problems relating to sick/weak units including units coming under the purview of Sick Industrial Companies (Special Provisions) Act, 1985 and cases of incipient sickness. The Cell would also attend to coordination matters between the banks and

financial institutions. State Government representatives are also invited to participate in joint meetings which are convened to evolve rehabilitation packages involving reliefs/concessions from the State Government.

(d) RBI has reported that there is concentration of sickness in Textile, Chemicals, Sugar and Engineering group of Industries.

#### **Canalisation of Spice Imports**

396. PROF. K.V. THOMAS : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government contemplate to canalise the import of spices through Spices Trading Corporation; and

(b) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P.R. DASMUNSI): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Import of most spices is restricted as it is a consumer item. Some spices are allowed to be imported under OGL to meet the requirement of consumers and canalisation of such imports is not considered desirable.

#### **Revenue Collection from Direct Taxes**

397. SHRIMATI GEETA MUKHERJEE : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the revenue collections from the direct taxes have been showing a decreasing trend for the last three decades;

(b) if so, the plan-wise details, thereof;

(c) the main reasons therefor;