

(a) whether Government have decided to issue new series of 50 paise, 25 paise and 10 paise coins for circulation through Reserve Bank of India;

(b) if so, the details of the metal to be used in minting the new coins; and

(c) to what extent the new coins will meet the growing demand for small coins in the country?

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

(b) The coins will have both iron and Chromium.

(c) Against the current demand of 1850 million pieces of coins in the denomination of 50 paise, 25 paise and 10 paise, the annual capacity will be of 2175 million pieces.

National Water Policy

*141. SHRI K. RAMAMURTHY: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether some State Governments are opposed to the National Water Policy;

(b) if so, the names of those States with reasons for their opposition; and

(c) the steps being taken or proposed by Union Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE AND MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI B. SHANKARANAND): (a) No, Sir.

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

Freight Traffic Performance

1108. SHRI MULLAPPALLY RAMACHANDRAN: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Railways have lagged behind the target in the movement of originating revenue-earning traffic in the first six months of the current financial year;

(b) if so, the main reasons for the shortfall;

(c) the steps being taken to attain the target for freight set for the current year; and

(d) the effect of floods on freight movement during this year?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA): (a) Yes, Sir, Marginally.

(b) The main reason is the shortfall in the offer of traffic, particularly in foodgrains which was affected due to drought in the earlier year and also less offer in certain other sectors. The loading was also affected by heavy rains, floods, Bandhs and strikes etc.

(c) All efforts are being made to pick up all the traffic that is offered.

(d) To some extent, the floods have affected loading during this year.

Rehabilitation of Scindia Steam Navigation Co.

1109. DR. B.L. SHAILESH: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether any plan has been formulated to rehabilitate the Scindia Steam Navigation Co. Ltd. with the aid of Government

loans;

(b) if so, its broad features and the capital outlay involved;

(c) the loss incurred by the company during the year ended 30th June, 1988; and

(d) the number of liner vessels owned by the Scindia which are fit to be chartered and the number of those earmarked for scrapping?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC AFFAIRS IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO): (a) and (b). Various option in respect of Scindia Steam Navigation Co., which had suspended operation of its vessels, were considered and a decision has been taken to run the company through its Board of Directors. To meet the immediate requirements of the company, such as payments on account of wages, salaries, supplies, dry-docking, repairs, etc., short-term loans have been provided to the company by Government. The company is now in the process of reactivating its viable vessels for restarting operations.

(c) According to the available information, the accounts of the company for the year ended 30th June 1988 have not yet been finalised and therefore the losses incurred during the period are not readily ascertainable.

(d) Of the total fleet to 22 vessels, 9 have been earmarked for scrapping. Of the remaining 13 vessels, which are being put into operation, 6 have so far being given on time-charter.

Flood Control Schemes in Andhra Pradesh

1110. SHRI S. PALAKONDRAYUDU: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES

be pleased to state:

(a) whether any centrally sponsored flood control schemes are under execution in Andhra Pradesh at present;

(b) if so, the details of the schemes; and

(c) the amount allocated for these schemes during 1986-87 and 1987-88?

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE AND MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI B. SHANKARANAND): (a) No, Sir.

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

Dibrugarh and Bombay

1111. SHRI PIYUS TIRAKY: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a proposal to introduce a long distance direct train between Dibrugarh and Bombay via Katihar, Barauni, Ranchi, Rourkela, Sambalpur and Nagpur;

(b) if so, the details thereof and action taken thereon, and

(c) the time by which the train is expected to be introduced?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA): (a) No, Sir.

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

Thefts between Kharagpur and Midnapur on S.E. Railway

1112. SHRI NARAYAN CHOUBEY: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the incidents of thefts from