

World Bank Warning about Inflation in India

2166. DR. T. KALPANA DEVI: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the World Bank has warned India against its high rate of inflation in the recent years;

(b) the reasons for inflation of the rates; and

(c) the steps being taken by Government to curb the inflation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC AFFAIRS IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO): (a) to (c). The Annual Report of the World Bank for 1988 states that because of the effect of drought on agricultural prices, inflation in India neared 10 per cent for the first time since the early 1980s.

The Report has commended India's success in averting the worst effects of the drought by timely action taken by the Government and the existence of well-established institutional mechanisms for coping with such emergencies. The Central Government maintained availability of basic foods and contained price increases by drawing down its foodgrain stocks, and by importing edible oils, pulses, and fodder.

Conservation of Energy

2167. SHRI ASHOK SHANKARRAO CHAVAN: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state.

(a) whether a seminar on conservation of energy by Railways was held recently;

(b) if so, the outcome of the discussions; and

(c) the steps taken to implement the decision taken at the Seminar?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MAHABIR PRASAD): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c). The Seminar generated a number of ideas on energy conservation and an Action Plan has been drawn up to implement proved schemes and to initiate research into areas which bear promise of energy savings.

[*Translation*]

Raid on the Premises of Officers of Income Tax Department

2168. SHRI KALI PRASAD PANDEY: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the officers of Income Tax Department from whose premises illegal/undeclared property worth rupees one lakh or more have been recovered during the raids conducted since 1986; and

(b) the number of cases referred to Central Bureau of Investigation and other intelligence agencies or filed in the courts against such officers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI A. K. PANJA): (a) In the cases of five officers of the Income-tax Department illegal/undeclared property worth Rs. 1 lakh or more was found during searches conducted by the C.B.I. since 1986.

(b) All the five cases were investigated by the C.B.I. Chargesheets in two of these cases have been filed in the courts.

Contract Labour

2169. SHRI RAM PUJAN PATIL: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Railways have decided to get their work completed on contract basis by stopping the recruitment of gang-man at present;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the steps taken for increasing productivity and improving quality of work?