

(a) whether the Life Insurance Corporation propose to identify 300 centres in the country for intensive grant of housing loans;

(b) if so, the details of centres identified so far; and

(c) the details of loans proposed to be provided by the Life Insurance Corporation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC AFFAIRS IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO): (a) to (c). For the purpose of intensive housing development and grant of loans on a large scale a per the salient features of "Own Your Home" Scheme, the LIC of India have identified more than 300 centres in the entire country. While the Southern Zone, comprising 17 Divisions, may have 81 centres, the Eastern Zone consisting of 13 Divisions has been earmarked as many as 66 centres. There will be about 55 centres in the 11 Divisions of the Central Zone. In the Northern Zone, comprising 9 Divisions, 46 centres have been identified. As many as 55 centres may come up in the 11 Divisions of the Western Zone.

[Translation]

Loco Shed at Loop Lines Sahib Ganj (Eastern Railway)

1351. SHRI SETH HEMBROM: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Railways have decided to close down Loco Shed at Loop Lines, Sahib Ganj (Bihar) on Eastern Railway; and

(b) if so, the reasons therefor?

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

(b) As part of Railway's policy to phase out steam traction.

[English]

FTZ in Madras and Pondicherry

1352. SHRI P.R.S. VENKATESAN: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government of Tamil Nadu and Union Territory of Pondicherry have sent any proposal to establish a Free Trade Zone (FTZ) in Madras and Pondicherry;

(b) if so, when was the proposal sent and details thereof; and

(c) the reaction of Government in this regard?

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

(b) and (c). Proposals were received from the Govt. of Tamil Nadu in 1976 and from the Union Territory of Pondicherry in 1978 for establishing Export Processing zones within the respective territories. These were considered along with requests from other States and a decision was taken in 1983 to establish four new Export Processing Zones in the country located at Noida (UP), Falta (West Bengal), Madras and Cochin.

Cauvery Water Disputes

1353. SHRI V. KRISHNA RAO: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Chief Ministers of Karnataka and Tamil Nadu have indicated that the Cauvery Waters Dispute would be settled through discussions; and