

(d) The Scheme has been introduced by the banks on a pilot basis very recently and it is too early to make any assessment of its utilisation by farmers.

#### **Public Deposits by Blade Companies**

1441. SHRI MOHD. MAHFOOZ ALI KHAN: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Reserve bank of India has received complaints against certain blade companies in the country which attracted huge public deposits and subsequently disappeared with the deposits;

(b) if so, the details thereof stating the amount of deposits involved in each of the blade companies; and

(c) the action taken by Government in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC AFFAIRS IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO): (a) to (c). Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has reported that it has received a number of complaints against some "blade companies". The "blade companies" are reported to be unincorporated bodies engaged in acceptance of deposits from the public and lending the same. Acceptance of deposits by unincorporated bodies are regulated under the provisions of Chapter III-C of Reserve Bank of India Act, 1934. These provisions prohibit acceptance of deposits in excess of the specified number of depositors. The Act also provides for penal action, including fine and imprisonment, against violations of the provisions of the Act.

RBI has further reported that the Bank has, either on its own or jointly with the State Government officials, conducted raids in the office premises of 116 unincorporated bod-

ies in the States of Gujarat, Karnataka, Tamilnadu and Kerala and the Union Territory of Delhi and criminal complaints have been launched against some of these firms for violations of the provisions of Chapter III-C of Reserve Bank of India Act, 1934. In one case the accused pleaded guilty in the court of law and was imposed a fine of Rs. 11000/-. The other cases are in different stages of trial. RBI has also reported that the particulars of amount of deposits with the blade companies are not available as such bodies are not required to send any returns to RBI.

The constitutional validity of Chapter III-C of Reserve Bank of India Act, 1934 has been challenged and the matter is pending in the Supreme Court and is, therefore, sub-judice.

[English]

#### **Train Service between Delhi-Sahibganj and Sealdah**

1442. SHRI SETH HEMBROM: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the reasons for changing the name of 13 Up and 14 Down to 33 Up and 34 Down in Sahibganj loop line of Eastern Railway and terminating it at Varanasi; and

(b) whether Government propose to make any alternative arrangement to run direct train from Sealdah to Delhi via Sahibganj loop line for the convenience of the passengers especially adivasis?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MAHABIR PRASAD): (a) As a result of rationalisation of train services, 13/14 Express was restricted upto Mughalsarai and later extended to Varanasi. The change in name was due to difference in the nature of services.

(b) No, Sir.

[English]

**Central Assistance to Tamil Nadu**

1443. SHRI P.R.S. VENKATESAN: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether any request has been received from the State Government of Tamil Nadu for Central assistance during 1988; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF EXPENDITURE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI B.K. GADHVI): (a) and (b). Yes, Sir. The Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu has requested for special Central assistance of Rs. 150 crores to meet certain additional commitments like interim relief to Government employees, open market purchase of rice, additional outlays on rural employment, social welfare schemes etc. and implement the State's Annual Plan for the current financial year.

**Berhampur Railway Station**

1444. SHRI SOMNATH RATH: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the amount sanctioned for the improvement and remodelling of Berhampur railway station (Orissa), during the financial year 1988-89;

(b) the amount spent so far and on what items; and

(c) the details of the scheme or programme to improve the status of this railway station?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MAHABIR PRASAD): (a) Rs. 5.44 lakhs.

(b) Rs. 4.00 lakhs have been spent on improvement to retiring room, dormitory, first class waiting room and platform surface.

(c) Further improvements to Berhampur railway station will be done, in a phased manner, on a need based programme subject to availability of funds.

**U.S. Aid to India**

1445. SHRI SOMNATH RATH:  
SHRI T.V. CHANDRASHEKHARAPPA:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the quantum of U.S. aid to India in the past was much more than what is received at present; and

(b) if so, the main reasons for the decline and the steps being taken by Government to get more aid from the United States?

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

(b) It has been explained by the U.S. authorities that the decline in their assistance has been mainly on account of their internal budgetary constraints. Our concern at the cut in aid has been conveyed to the U.S. side.

[Translation]

**Unearthing of Black Money by Narcotics Control Bureau**

1446. DR. CHANDRA SHEKHAR TRIPATHI: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state: