

DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC AFFAIRS IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO): (a) and (b). Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has reported that during the years 1987, 1988 and 1989, 96 licences for rural and semi-urban centres and 21 licences for urban and metropolitan centres were issued to banks for opening branches

in the State of Kerala. Out of these, banks have opened branches at 83 centres so far.

(c) The position of utilisation of licences issued under the current Branch Licensing Policy for 1985-90 and Service Area Approach in the State of Kerala and all India are indicated below:-

	<i>Kerala</i>	<i>All India</i>
No. of licences issued	117	7206
No. of branches opened	83	3650
No. of licences pending on date	34	3556

Issue of fixed Deposits Certificates by National Confederation of Bank Employees (Urban) Staff Co-op. Thrift and Credit Society Ltd. New Delhi

2743. SHRIMATI MANORAMA SINGH: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the National Confederation of Bank Employees (Urban) Staff Co-operative Thrift and Credit Society Limited, New Delhi had issued Fixed Deposit Certificates (Bonds) of the value of Rs. 1000/-, 10,000/- etc. during the last four years for the period of twelve months and thirteen months.

(b) if so, the total amount collected through these bonds during the above period.

(c) the amount paid to the bond-holders on maturity of the bonds so far and the amount still not paid despite the fact that the bonds (certificates) maturity date has already lapsed;

(d) the reasons for not refunding public money; and

(e) the steps Government propose to take to ensure that the people (bond holders)

get their due amount without further delay?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC AFFAIRS IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO): (a) to (e). Information is being collected and to the extent available will be laid on the Table of the House.

Manning of Level Crossing on Cuttack-Paradeep Section

2744. SHRI LAKSHMAN MALLICK: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) how many level crossings are there in Cuttack-Paradeep branch line in Orissa;

(b) whether a large number of accidents take place as most of the level crossings in that branch line are not manned; and

(c) if so, the steps taken to man those level crossings?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA): (a) There are 56 level crossings, out of which 10 are manned.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

Supply of Wagons to Paradeep Port

2745. SHRI LAKSHMAN MALLICK: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether adequate number of wagons are not being provided to Paradeep Port to transport coal;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the steps taken to increase the supply of wagons to Paradeep Port so that the uncertainty in the coal import through Paradeep Port is over?

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

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

Companies with American Share Holdings

2746. SHRI RAM BHAGAT PASWAN: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that certain companies in which American share holders are taking very less profit to their countries are spending money in India and their products are sold in black market in India; and

(b) if so, the details of such companies and the action taken by Government against them?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC AFFAIRS IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO): (a) No, Sir.

(b) It does not arise.

FERA cases against Mackinon Mackenzie & Co. Ltd.

2747. DR. VENKATESH: Will the

Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the cases filed against Mackinon Mackenzie & Company Ltd., under Foreign Exchange Regulation Act, 1973 which were adjudicated during the last three years;

(b) the result of the findings; and

(c) the follow up action taken or contemplated by Government?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC AFFAIRS IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO): (a) to (c). The Directorate of Enforcement initiated adjudication proceedings against M/s. Mackinon Mackenzie and Co. Ltd. and other connected with that company by issue of 6 show cause notices in 1986 and 1987 for violation of the provisions of FERA, 1973. Appropriate action as warranted under the law is taken against the offenders on completion of the proceeding.

Introduction of Departure Tax

2748. SHRI SOMNATH RATH: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have recently introduced a departure tax of rupees three hundred per person going abroad; and

(b) if so, its effect on workers and middle class people?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI A.K. PANJA): (a) The rates of foreign travel tax viz. rupees one hundred per passenger embarking on international journey to any place other than a neighbouring country and rupees fifty for journey to any place in a neighbouring country, levied under the Finance Act, 1979 (21 of 1979), were enhanced to rupees three hundred and rupees one hundred and fifty respectively under the Finance Act, 1989 (13 of 1989). The new rates of foreign travel tax took effect from the 1st day of June, 1989.

(b) As the increase in tax will represent only a small amount when compared to the cost of international travel, it is not likely to have any significant effect on workers and middle class people.