

Information relating to rupee traveller's cheques issued by the other banks and institutions is not readily available.

(b) Yes. The existing facilities available at about 860 offices located in all the important countries of the world, are being extended, as and when necessary, in accordance with the requirements of the travelling public.

Delegations

2119. Shri Morarka: Will the Minister of Steel, Mines and Fuel be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of delegations or technical teams sent to foreign countries so far in connection with the work of the three steel plants;

(b) the personnel of each such team or delegation;

(c) the purpose for which they went and the countries they visited; and

(d) the total expenditure incurred on each of the delegations?

The Minister of Steel, Mines and Fuel (Sardar Swaran Singh): (a) to (d). A statement is laid on the Table of the Lok Sabha. [See Appendix V, annexure No. 95].

Unification of Kishengunge (Bihar)

2120. Shri C. K. Bhattacharyya: Will the Minister of Home Affairs be pleased to state:

(a) whether his attention has been drawn to the reports in the "Anand Bazar Patrika" and the "Hindusthan Standard" (Calcutta edition) of 8th May 1958 that a memorandum has been submitted to him by the residents of present Kishengunge Sub-division of Bihar;

(b) whether such a memorandum has been received by him;

(c) if so, the action taken thereon?

The Minister of Home Affairs (Pandit G. B. Pant): (a) and (b). No memorandum from the residents of the

present Kishengunge Sub-division of Bihar has been received regarding the subject of this question. A copy of a resolution, however, purporting to have been passed by "eminent men of Kishengunge, District Purnea" at a meeting held on 25th December 1957 to consider "depressing state of affairs of trade and commerce of Kishengunge merchants and allied matters" was forwarded to this Ministry.

(c) The contents of the resolution have been brought to the notice of the State Governments concerned.

Wages and Salaries

2121. Shri Abdul Salam: Will the Minister of Finance be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the wages and salaries component of consumption expenditure on current account of Government administration has increased from about Rs. 170 crores in 1956-57, (Accounts) to Rs. 214 crores in 1958-59 (Budget); and

(b) if so, what part of the additional expenditure is due to increased prices and costs of living and what part is due to employment of additional hands?

The Minister of Revenue and Civil Expenditure (Dr. B. Gopala Reddi):

(a) Yes Sir.

(b) Of the total rise of Rs. 44 crores a sum of about Rs. 4 crores represents the interim dearness allowance to lower paid staff recommended by the Pay Commission. The rest is attributable to normal increments and additional employment.

Oil Refineries

2122. Shri Harish Chandra Mathur: Will the Minister of Steel, Mines and Fuel be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any scheme for the expansion of the existing oil refineries;

(b) if so, the nature thereof;