

Concessional Aid Received from International Financial Institutions

2954. SHRI AMAR ROY PRADHAN : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) the concessional aid so far Government of India have received from international financial institutions ; and

(b) further programme in the matter ?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE) : (a) The assistance received by the Government of India from international financial institutions i.e. IBRD/IDA and IFAD upto 30th September, 1983 amounts to Rs. 7377.38 crores.

(b) Every year pipeline of projects for posing to the international financial institutions for aid is prepared. Actual tying of aid will depend, among other things, upon the availability of resources with these financial institutions and the status of project preparation etc.

Interim Report of Financial Commission

2955. SHRI AMAR ROY PRADHAN : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have received an interim report from the Finance Commission ; and

(b) if so, the main recommendations of the Commission ?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The interim report together with the memorandum on the action thereon is being laid on the Table of both the Houses of Parliament today.

Boosting Production of Minor Oil Seeds to Avoid Import of Palmstearin for Soap-making

2956. SHRI SUSHIL BHATTACHARYA : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government is going to import palmstearin to replace animal tallow needed for soap making and other industries ; and

(b) if so, whether Government contemplated boosting production of minor oil seeds to meet the requirements of the country to relieve the exchequer of the heavier burden for importing palmstearin, a high priced commodity in the international market, to replace animal tallow ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRIMATI RAM DULARI SINHA) : (a) Import of palmstearin has been canalised through State Trading Corporation of India with effect from 11-11-1983.

(b) Steps are being taken to increase production and productivity of traditional and non-traditional oil seeds and oils.

Development of Tourist Spots in Orissa

2957. SHRI ARJUN SETHI : Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether there has been any increase in the number of foreign and domestic tourists who visited various tourist spots in Orissa, Bihar and West Bengal during the last three years ;

(b) if so, the number of foreign tourists who visited Orissa, during the last three years, year-wise ; and

(c) the steps taken to develop tourist spots and promote tourist traffic in Orissa ?