

bank offices opened after nationalisation (till the end of March, 1971) 2139 or about 66% were located in rural centres i. e. places with population of not more than 10,000.

Bank Credit Secured by Agriculturist Borrowers above Rupees Ten Thousand

3764. SHRI BHOGENDR JHA : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to refer to the reply given to Unstarred Question No. 714 on 28th May, 1971 and state :

(a) the total number of agriculturist borrowers having secured bank credit of above ten thousand rupees each and their proportion to the total number of agriculturist borrowers and to the total amount credited to all of them ; and

(b) the number of agricultural borrowers and marginal peasants who have been given bank credit and whether the differential rate of interest in their favour is being charged ?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI YESHWANTRAO CHAVAN) : (a) Banks do not compile statistics on these lines. With reference to Unstarred Question No. 714 answered in this House on May 28, 1971, information regarding the number of persons State-wise, who have received agricultural advance from the public sector banks above Rs. 50,000/-, is being collected by a special effort. Similar particulars regarding advances above Rs. 10,000/- are also being collected. It may be appreciated that collection of these figures will involve some time. The figures will be laid on the Table of the House as soon as they are available from the Reserve Bank.

(b) The total number of borrowal accounts receiving direct agricultural finance from public sector banks as at the end of February 1971, amounts to 7,96,094. Figures in respect of 'marginal peasants' (a concept the connotation of which would differ from area to area because of factors like soil conditions and availability of water, etc.) are not maintained by banks. At present, banks do not charge differential in favour of small agricultural loans. It may be added that the report of the Committee on Differential Rates of Interest appointed by the Reserve Bank has been received recently and is under examination.

Conversion of Institutional Loans owed by Monopoly Houses into Equity Shares

3765. SHRI BHOGENDR JHA : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to refer to the reply given to Unstarred Question No. 1389 on the 4th June, 1971 regarding Institutional loan owed by Monopoly Houses and state :

(a) the hurdle in the way of converting loans into equity shares ;

(b) whether it is proposed to stop institutional credit to the monopoly and other big business houses and to convert the entire amount given hitherto into equity shares ; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI YESHWANTRAO CHAVAN) : (a) to (c). Government's decision in regard to conversion of loans into equity is that in the case of industrial projects which receive substantial assistance on medium term or long term basis from public sector financial institutions, the institutions will normally reserve the right to convert loans/debentures assistance given by them into equity. A copy of the detailed guidelines issued in this respect to the financial institutions is laid on the Table of the House. [Placed in Library. See No. L.T.—593/71] No. hurdles are anticipated in following these guidelines by the all-India long-term financial institutions. It is not our intention to stop institutional credit for the genuine productive requirements. The guidelines-referred to above do not contemplate conversion of the loans given in the past to monopoly or other big business houses, or for that matter, to any industrial concerns into equity shares. In future, the conversion of loans given by the long-term public financial institutions into equity will be made within the framework of the policy outlined therein.

Survey of Book Industry and Trade

3766. SHRI B. N. REDDY : Will the Minister of EDUCATION AND SOCIAL WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government appointed any committee recently for a comprehensive survey of the book industry and trade in India ; and

(b) if so, when the Committee is likely to submit its report ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF EDUCATION AND SOCIAL WELFARE AND IN THE DEPARTMENT OF CULTURE (SHRI D. P. YADAVA) : (a) and (b). Yes, Sir. But the Committee has not yet started work. It will be some time before the Committee would submit its report.

Proposal to Start Air Taxi Service

3767. **SHRI JADEJA :** Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is any proposal under consideration of Government to start Air Taxi Service in the country ;

(b) if so, whether the scheme will be in public sector or private sector ; and

(c) if the reply to part (a) above be in the negative, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION (DR. SARAJINI MAHISHI) : (a) and (b). The question of allowing private operators to establish air taxi services on routes not operated by Indian Airlines, particularly for promotion of tourism in various parts of the country, is under examination.

(c) Does not arise.

Unsatisfactory Conditions for Displaying and Preserving Ancient Monuments in National Museum, New Delhi

3768. **SHRI JADEJA :** Will the Minister of EDUCATION AND SOCIAL WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the report appearing in the "Statesman" dated the 31st March, 1971 in regard to the unsatisfactory conditions prevailing in the National Museum, New Delhi for displaying and preserving the ancient monuments ; and

(b) if so, the steps taken by Government in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF EDUCATION AND SOCIAL WELFARE AND MINISTER OF DEPARTMENT OF CULTURE (SHRI SIDDHARATHA SHANKAR RAY) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) A statement is laid on the Table of the Lok Sabha.

Statement

The report made in the Statesman dated 31-3-1971, regarding the National Museum is factually incorrect.

The National Museum has a large and varied collection representing Art, Archaeology, Anthropology, Pre—history, Central Asian Antiquities, Pre-Columbian Art, Numismatics, Epigraphy and so forth.

The National Museum has made adequate arrangements for conservation. Its Central Conservation Laboratory attends mainly to the needs of the Museum in addition to its service in general to several other Museums in the country.

The Museum has a large collection of miniature paintings and drawings, but obviously all of them cannot be displayed at one time. The main reason is paucity of gallery space. Only representative miniatures of each school have been displayed. The quality of display in the National Museum is of a high order and it has won appreciation from visitors.

Notwithstanding the paucity of space, the Central Asian Antiquities have two galleries of their own, in addition to a large annexe for the mural paintings in an adjacent building.

As for the building and its construction is concerned the first phase was completed in 1960. The second phase was to have come up as scheduled some years ago, but due to the financial stringency this could not be taken up earlier. The second phase of the building, however, is now expected to be completed during the Fourth Five Year Plan.

Special attention is paid to objects which have a tendency to suffer deterioration, like wood, textiles and so forth. Anti-termite treatment is given regularly to the susceptibles and if even a trace of the termite is noted, it is imme-