

(b) No amount by way of interest was outstanding against the Assam Government as on 31st March, 1971.

(c) The Central assistance allocated for Assam State Plan for 1971-72, comprising block loans and grants, amounts to Rs. 36.56 crores. In addition, the State Government would receive loans in lieu of Small Savings collections, for financing Centrally sponsored schemes, etc. which are yet to be finalised. The State Government have, in their Budget for 1971-72, assumed Central loans totalling Rs. 40.89 crores.

Allocation in Fourth Plan for Prohibition, Prevention of Leprosy, Adult Education and Harijan Welfare

5032. SHRI ROBIN KAKOTY : Will the Minister of EDUCATION AND SOCIAL WELFARE be pleased to state the allocation made in the Fourth Five Year Plan for (i) Prohibition, (ii) Prevention of Leprosy, (iii) Adult Education and (iv) Harijan Welfare measures, State-wise ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF EDUCATION AND SOCIAL WELFARE (SHRI K. S. RAMASWAMY) : Information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House

Loans to States for Development of Education

5033. SHRI ROBIN KAKOTY : Will the Minister of EDUCATION AND SOCIAL WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) the amount of Loans given to the various States by the Central Government for development of education in the respective States during the last three years ; and

(b) the number of Central Government run educational institutions in various states at present ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF EDUCATION AND SOCIAL WELFARE AND IN THE DEPARTMENT OF CULTURE (SHRI D. P. YADAVA) : (a) A statement is laid on the Table of the House. [*Placed in Library.* see NO. LT—679/71].

(b) 19 institutions.

Grants given to Social Welfare Institutions in Assam

5034. SHRI ROBIN KAKOTY : Will the Minister of EDUCATION AND SOCIAL WELFARE be pleased to state the names of Social Welfare Institutions in Assam State to whom grants were given by the Central Social Welfare Board during the last three years ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF EDUCATION AND SOCIAL WELFARE (SHRI K. S. RAMASWAMY) : The list of Institutions in Assam State to whom grants were given by the Central Social Welfare Board is laid on the Table of the House. [*Placed in Library.* See NO. LT—681/71]

Loans Advanced to Assam State by the Nationalised Banks

5035. SHRI ROBIN KAKOTY : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) the total amount of loans advanced to Assam State by nationalised banks during the last two years ;

(b) the criteria fixed by Government for advancing loans to the States by the nationalised banks ;

(c) whether Assam State is getting less amount of loans from the nationalised banks in comparison to other States ; and

(d) if so, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI YESHWANTRAO CHAVAN) : (a) to (d). At the end of June 1969 the total amount outstanding in respect of advances given by 14 nationalised banks in the Assam State was Rs. 8.16 crores at the end of September, 1970. The main criteria for granting of loans to eligible borrowers by the nationalised banks is operational viability of the schemes and priority is given to hitherto neglected sectors, like agriculture, small scale industries, retail trade etc. In case of small scale industries advances by all commercial banks in Assam State as at the end of June, 1969 were to the tune of Rs. 1.55 crores and this figure went upto Rs. 3.78 crores at the end of December,

1970. In the same period the outstandings in respect of agriculture went up from Rs. 0.30 crores to Rs. 0.65 crores. There has been more than 100% increase in respect of advances to small scale industry and agriculture in this period. One particular deficiency in Assam before the nationalisation of the 14 banks was the relatively small number of branches of commercial banks in the State. The number of branches as on 30th June, 1969 was 81 which went up to 134 at the end of 31st March, 1971. There will also be about 40 more additional branches by the end of 1971 or early 1972. This will help considerably in increasing the bank credit in Assam State especially to the hitherto neglected sectors.

Construction of Restaurant at Kovalam

5036. SHRI RAMACHANDRAN KADANNAPPALLI : Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state the amount to be paid for the construction of a restaurant in Kovalam ?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI KARAN SINGH) : The restaurant to be constructed at Kovalam forms a part of the Beach Service Centre, which is estimated to cost Rs. 5.50 lakhs.

Committee to Enquire into the Losses Suffered by State Transport Corporations

5037. SHRI GANGA REDDY : Will the Minister of SHIPPING AND TRANSPORT be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government are aware that almost all the State Transport Corporations are incurring losses ; and

(b) if so, whether Government propose to set up a Committee to enquire into the reasons for such losses ?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS, AND SHIPPING AND TRANSPORT (SHRI RAJ BAHADUR) : (a) Several of the State Road Transport Undertakings including State Transport Corporations are working at a loss.

(b) The State Road Transport Undertakings (including the Road Transport Cor-

porations in which the Ministry of Railways participate financially) are under the control of the respective State Governments. It is, therefore, for the State Government concerned to consider whether there is any need to set up a Committee to go into the working of its State Road Transport Undertaking. However, the Association of State Road Transport Undertakings constituted two Study Groups in 1969 to examine the reasons for the variations in the performance of the State Road Transport Undertakings. One of these Study Groups was to study the working of the City Transport Undertakings and the other to examine the operations of the general Road Transport Undertakings. The report of the Study Group on City Services is expected shortly. The work of the Study Group (General) has not yet been completed.

The Central Government is directly concerned with only the Undertaking viz. the Central Road Transport Corporation Limited. The Government of India had appointed a Committee under the Chairmanship of the Managing Director of this Company in February, 1967, to examine the working of this Undertaking and make recommendations for streamlining its operations. The report of this Committee was received in February, 1971. Copies of this report are available in the Parliament library.

Direct Jet Flight Service between Kathmandu and New Delhi

5038. SHRI DEVINDER SINGH GARCHA : Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government of India are negotiating with the Government of Nepal for direct jet flight service between Kathmandu and New Delhi ; and

(b) if so, the progress made and the present stage of talk ?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION (DR. KARAN SINGH) : (a) and (b) : A request has been received from the Government of Nepal for inter-governmental talk to review the air transport agreement between the two countries.