

for making an assessment of the recent flood damage and the assistance that is necessary for relief operations ; and

(b) if so, the names of members of the Study Team ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI K. R. GANESH) : (a) and (b). As and when requests are received from State Governments following occurrence of floods, Central Teams are constituted to visit the States concerned, to make an on-the-spot assessment of the situation and to determine the funds that will be required for relief measures. So far such requests have been received only from the State Governments of Kerala and Bihar. The names of the members of the Central Teams that will visit these States have not yet been finalised.

Non-Acceptance of 50 Paise and 25 Paise Coins introduced prior to Decimalisation of Currency

6486. **SHRI ARJUN SETHI :** Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether 50 Paise and 25 Paise coins introduced prior to decimalisation of the currency are in circulation ;

(b) if so, whether it is a fact that such coins are not being accepted in the markets in various parts of Orissa ; and

(c) whether Government propose to enquire into the matter with a view to abolish this discrimination ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI K. R. GANESH) : (a) The half rupee and quarter rupee nickel coins, bearing the King's effigy on one side and the figure of a tiger on the other as also coins bearing the Asoka Pillar design, introduced prior to decimalisation of currency, still continue to be legal tender and are in circulation ;

(b) There are indications to suggest that these coins, though legal tenders, are not accepted by the public in some parts of Orissa ;

(c) The Reserve Bank of India are seized of the matter and they have taken action to give the publicity through the Government of Orissa that these coins continue to be legal tender and that there

should be no hesitation on the part of the public in accepting them.

Construction of Subernarekha Bridge

6487. **SHRI ARJUN SETHI :** Will the Minister of SHIPPING AND TRANSPORT be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Central Government have suggested to the Government of West Bengal to provide a portion of money for the construction of the Subernarekha Bridge as both the States will be benefited equally ;

(b) if so, what reply has been received from the West Bengal Government ; and •

(c) when the technical approval and financial sanction will be given to the project ?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS, AND SHIPPING AND TRANSPORT (SHRI RAJ BAHADUR) :

(a) No, Sir. The proposed bridge over Subernarekha in Orissa falls on a State road. The Orissa Government requested for financial assistance for the bridge under the Central Aid Programme of State roads of inter-State or Economic Importance for which the pattern of financial assistance in the Fourth Plan is 100% loan. The State Government have accepted this pattern of assistance also. The Government of India have considered the State Government's request and agreed to give 100% loan assistance for the construction of this bridge, which is estimated by the State Government to cost Rs. 74.00 lakhs.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) The State Government are themselves competent to sanction detailed plans and estimates to this project under the delegated powers.

Loans, Grants, Old Age Pension to Handicapped and Old Persons in Andhra Pradesh

6488. **SHRI M. SATYANARAYAN RAO :** Will the Minister of EDUCATION AND SOCIAL WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether there are any schemes for the provision of loans, grants, scholarships,