

debt not realisable is actually written off every year. Adequate provision for bad and doubtful debts is also made every year in consultation with the statutory auditors before finalising the accounts of the year and the amounts written off are adjusted against the provision taking into account the volume and nature of business in the past few years conducted by the large number of offices of the nationalised banks. There is no reason to believe that the bad debts are showing any marked tendency to increase in the last two years. Section 29 of the Banking Regulation Act 1949 which prescribes the forms of balance sheet and profit and loss account of Commercial Banks does not provide for disclosure *inter-alia*, of provisions made during a year for bad and doubtful debts or of bad debts actually written off against the provision.

**Loss of Amount to Nationalised Banks as a result of Dacoity and Misappropriation**

4577 SHRI ANNASAHIB GOIKAR (HINDI) Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state

(a) the amount lost by the nationalised banks, year-wise since 1st June, 1971 because of dacoity, cheating and misappropriation,

(b) the number of cases of holdups, cheating etc. during the said period, and

(c) the steps taken to minimise such losses?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI K. R. GANESH) (a) and (b) The required information to the extent possible is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

(c) The security and procedural arrangements in the branches of the banks are under continuous review and requisite steps, wherever necessary, are also taken by the banks.

**Scarcity of Essential Drugs in Mofussil Areas**

4378 SHRI JYOTIRMOY BOSU Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS be pleased to state

(a) whether his Ministry has made any assessment of scarcity of essential drugs, especially in mofussil areas, and

(b) if so, the outcome thereof?

THE MINISTER OF LAW & JUSTICE AND PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS (SHRI H. R. GOKHALE) (a) and (b) A continuous watch is being kept in the Ministry on the availability of all drugs formulations in the various regions of the country. Whenever shortages of certain brands of medicines come to notice, suitable action is taken through the concerned manufacturers to rush supplies to the areas concerned.

**Joint Stock Companies in India**

157) SHRI JYOTIRMOY BOSU Will the Minister of COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state

(a) the total number of Joint Stock Companies at work, State-wise as at the end of 1969-70, 1970-71 and 1971-72

(b) total paid-up capital of these Joint Stock Companies, State-wise, at the end of these years,

(c) the names of Joint Stock Companies, newly floated, State-wise and year-wise from 1969-70 to 1971-72 and

(d) the authorised capital of the new Companies, State-wise and year-wise, from 1969-70 to 1971-72?

THE MINISTER OF COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI RAGHUNATHA REDDY) (a) and (b) The number of Companies at work and their paid up capital as at the close of the years 1969-70, 1970-71 and 1971-72 (as on 31.12.71) State-wise are given in Statement I laid on the Table of the House [Placed in Library. See No. L1-1890/72].

(c) and (d) The number of Companies registered under the Companies Act, 1956, during the last three years namely, 1969-70, 1970-71 and 1971-72 (upto 31.12.71) along with their authorised capital, State-wise are given in Statement II laid on the Table of the House [Placed in Library. See No. L1-1890/72]. The names of these companies and their other particulars including authorised capital have been published in the Department's Publication 'Quarterly Blue Book on Joint Stock Companies' for the period from 1.4.1969 to 31.3.1971 and in the Department's Journal 'Company News & Notes' from 1.4.71 to 30.9.71 (copies of these publications are supplied to the Parliament Secretariat Library).