

payable on completion of 2 years from the date of drawal. The loan carries a fixed rate of interest of 7.5 per cent per annum and is free of Indian income tax. The loan has been taken by the State Bank of India against promissory notes. The State Bank has also to incur an additional expenditure of 0.1 per cent per annum as stamp duty.

The Lebanese pound is a freely convertible currency. A specific clause was also incorporated in the Loan Agreement between the lending Banks and the State Bank of India that, unless the proceeds of the loan were convertible, the Agreement would be null and void. The loan has already been utilized by converting the amount to U.S. dollars and making the payment to the Yugoslav Shipyard. The conversion at the time of draw down did not entail any loss

The repayment of the loan will start from December, 1974. The exchange conversion for buying Lebanese currency in international market will be guided by the prevalent movement of exchange rates at the appropriate time. This is a risk which is inherent in any international financial transaction.

(c) Government have seen the press reports which have appeared in regard to this loan transaction. There have been certain critical comments but, by and large, this transaction has been commented upon favourably.

The terms on which this loan was extended by the Lebanese Banks were considered to be acceptable by the Government. The World Bank and other international financial agencies have also raised loans in the Lebanese and Middle-East markets.

**Financial Assistance to Rajasthan for Famine and drought relief works**

695. SHRI N. K. SANGHI: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Rajasthan Government have stated that the present Central

assistance to the State to deal with the famine and drought situation is inadequate;

(b) whether even though the Central team that visited Rajasthan to assess the financial requirements of the State for the above purpose has since submitted the report, neither the contents have been made public nor have the recommendations implemented so far; and if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) whether the State Government have sought Central assistance to the tune of Rs. 79 crores and if so, how much of this has been sanctioned?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI K. R. GANESHI) (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c). For purposes of assessing the need for Central assistance on account of drought, three teams have visited the State during the current year. As recommended by the first two teams, the Central Government adopted a ceiling of Rs. 660 crores against the State Government's demand of Rs. 33 09 crores for the current year. The requisite sanction along with the reports of the central team were communicated to the State Government. In its Memorandum presented to the third Central Team which visited the State recently, the State Government have sought Central assistance to the extent of Rs. 86.68 crores and not Rs. 79 crores. The report of this team is awaited.

**Printing of Currency Notes on behalf of Government of Bangladesh**

696 SHRI N. K. SANGHI: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government of India printed some currency notes on behalf of the Government of Bangladesh;

(b) whether it has come to Government's notice that allegations appeared

in some daily newspapers in Bangladesh that some duplicate notes were printed in India and they were seized in Bangladesh;

(c) whether the Government of India in co-operation with the Government of Bangladesh conducted an enquiry to get at the root of the matter or whether any independent enquiry has been made by the Government of India; and

(d) if so, the findings thereof?

**THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI K. R. GANESH):** (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Government of India have been informed of the press reports in this regard through the High Commission of India in Dacca.

(c) and (d). The position was clarified by the High Commission of India in Dacca through a press note that any insinuation about printing of duplicate notes by India is entirely baseless and is deliberately circulated to create misunderstanding between Bangladesh and India. It was also made clear that the Government of India are prepared, if so requested by the Bangladesh Government to co-operate to the fullest extent in enquiring the origin of such counterfeit notes. It is for the Government of Bangladesh to decide whether they would like to institute an enquiry within Bangladesh.

**Recovery of an antique Stone Bust of a Jain Monk displayed in Civil Aviation Pavilion in Asia '72 Fair**

697. **SHRI N. K. SANGHI:** Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether an antique stone bust of a Jain monk of the 14th century displayed in the Civil Aviation Pavilion in Asia '72 Fair had been stolen if so, the estimated value of the bust;

(b) whether the bust belonged to Air-India or it was borrowed from the Archaeological Department for exhibition; and

(c) whether the bust has since been recovered?

**THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION (DR. KARAN SINGH):** (a) The stolen piece was not the bust of a Jain monk of 14th century but an art object "Devotee Head 15th Century, Rajasthan". It was stolen from the Civil Aviation pavilion on 16th January, 1973.

The bust was purchased by Air-India for Rs. 400/- in 1967; it was insured for Rs. 800/- Its current price is estimated at Rs. 3000.

(b) The bust was a part of Air-India's collection.

(c) The theft was reported to the police who are still investigating.

**Unlifted Stocks of controlled cloth**

698 **SHRI SUKHDEO PRASAD:  
VERMA:  
SHRI MOHAMMAD ISMAIL:**

Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether huge stocks of controlled cloth have accumulated with the mills; and

(b) if so, the reasons for the delay in speeding up its disposal?

**THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI A C. GEORGE):** (a) Powers under was some accumulation of stocks of controlled cloth with the mills in the initial stages of the scheme for distribution of controlled cloth introduced with effect from 1st November, 1972. The situation is improving as a result of the quantum of controlled cloth earmarked for being sold through the mills' own retail shops being increased from 10 per cent to 20 per cent of a mill's production of controlled cloth; and allotment of unlifted cloth to other