

(c) Income tax is payable on the income assessed for the year and not on any particular bank balance. Since the accounts are declared for Exchange Control purposes, they would have been declared for tax purposes also.

(d) Does not arise.

(e) All these accounts are regular or declared accounts and are subject to the supervision of the Reserve Bank of India. No further enquiry seems to be called for.

Replacement of Tariff Commission

153. SHRI PREM CHAND VERMA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Administrative Reforms Commission Study Group's recommendation for the constitution of National Economic Commission to replace the present Tariff Commission has been examined by Government;

(b) if so, the decision taken thereon; and

(c) when it is proposed to bring the measure before Parliament and whether any priority is being given to this recommendation to improve the economic climate in the country?

THE DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER AND MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI MORARJI DESA): (a) The Report of the A.R.C. Study Team regarding National Economic Commission was examined by the A.R.C. itself. The A.R.C.'s recommendations were received by Government only on the 20th July, 1968, and these have not yet been examined.

(b) and (c). Do not arise.

Floods in Assam

154. SHRI PREM CHAND VERMA:
SHRI R. BARUA:
SHRI DEBENDRANATH KALITA:

SHRI MANIBHAI J. PATEL:
SHRI ANBUCHEZIAN:

Will the Minister of IRRIGATION AND POWER be pleased to state:

(a) the extent of damage in the recent floods in Assam and how many people have been affected thereby;

(b) the amount which has been spent during the last three Five-Year Plans on flood protection measures in Assam;

(c) the actual benefit of these measures in preventing the floods since then;

(d) how it is that every year large scale floods recur in Assam in spite of these measures; and

(e) what further preventive measures are being taken to prevent the recurrence of the floods in that State?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF IRRIGATION AND POWER (SHRI SIDDHESHWAR PRASAD): (a) Only preliminary assessment has been made by the State Government of the damage caused by the recent floods in Assam. According to this assessment, the damage is as follows:—

Cropped area affected	0.8 lakh hectares.
Estimated damage to crops	Rs. 4 crores
Damage to embankments	Rs. 10 lakhs
Damage to roads and Bridges	Rs. 20 lakhs
No. of people affected	about 3 lakhs
Lives lost	Seven

(b) The amount spent during the Three Five Year Plans and during 1966-67 and 1967-68 was Rs. 25.71 crores.

(c) 6 lakh hectares of land have been afforded reasonable protection from floods.

(d) and (e). The work done so far in Assam is the construction of embankments for prevention of inundation; anti-erosion works and drainage schemes. They do not cover all the areas liable to flooding.

It is proposed to raise and strengthen the existing embankments. Long term measures like the constructing of Barak dam, selective dredging etc. are also under consideration.

Enforcement of prevention of food adulteration act

155. SHRI BABURAO PATEL: Will the Minister of HEALTH, FAMILY PLANNING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether adulteration of food articles has increased from 16.90 per cent to 51.2 per cent because of not enforcing the law for the prevention of food adulteration;

(b) the reason for which Government have not so far finalized the rules under the Prevention of Food Adulteration Act even though the amended rules were published as far back as in November, 1966;

(c) the precise steps which Government propose to take to prevent the adulteration of food articles; and

(d) if so, when and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH, FAMILY PLANNING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI B. S. MURTHY): (a) No.

(b) The draft rules to amend the Prevention of Food Adulteration Rules, 1955, have been finalized and formal notification for the amendment of these rules has been sent to the Press for publication in the Gazette of India.

(c) and (d). The provisions of the Prevention of Food Adulteration Act

have been made more stringent and States have been asked to ensure proper enforcement of the Act. The further steps proposed to be taken to prevent the adulteration of food articles will be decided after the Fourth Plan is finalised.

Increase in foreign debt

156. SHRIMATI TARKESHWARI SINHA:
SHRI S. S. KOTHARI:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the increase in the external debt during 1966-67 on account of devaluation;

(b) the total liability of external debt during the Third Plan period;

(c) whether Government have asked any moratorium on its external debt from any country or Bank; and

(d) if so, what are these countries from which moratorium has been sought?

THE DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER AND MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI MIRARJI DESAI): (a) The increase in debt liability of the Government of India in terms of rupees on account of devaluation of Indian rupee on 6th June, 1966, was Rs. 1360.74 crores. There was no increase in terms of foreign exchange.

(b) The external debt liability to be discharged directly in foreign exchange and through export of goods by the Government of India was Rs 576.71 crores (pre-devaluation rates) as at the beginning of Third Plan i.e. 1st April 1961. The debt liability went up to Rs. 1926.21 crores (pre-devaluation rates) at the end of Third Plan period i.e. 31st March, 1966.

(c) and (d). The Government of India had requested through the World Bank all the members of the Aid India Consortium to consider some form of debt relief in the con-