

and fine rates are charged on the Bank's advances to the priority sectors like agriculture and small scale industry. In so far as deposits are concerned the rates are standardised for all commercial banks.

Fraudulent Practice of West Bengal P.W.D. Construction Board

4659. SHRI S. C. SAMANTA: Will the Minister of WORKS, HOUSING AND SUPPLY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the C.B.I. and the State Enforcement Directorate have been informed by the office of the Accountant General, West Bengal regarding fraudulent practice by West Bengal P.W.D. Construction Board of making payments to imposters in cash by showing bogus documents;

(b) whether the criminal investigation agencies have looked into these allegations; and

(c) the actions which have been initiated against the concerned engineers responsible for these payments to imposter parties instead of payment of security deposits to the bona fide parties?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF WORKS, HOUSING AND SUPPLY (SHRI IQBAL SINGH): (a) to (c). The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

West Bengal Development Corporation

4660. SHRI S. C. SAMANTA: Will the Minister of HEALTH, FAMILY PLANNING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the West Bengal Development Corporation has gone into liquidation;

(b) the objectives of this body and the reasons for the liquidation;

(c) whether the Public Health Engineering programmes entrusted to this body have been completed;

(d) whether Government propose to lay a statement showing the liabilities of the body in liquidation towards employees and contractors as on the 31st October, 1968 on the Table; and

(e) whether the Central Government and the West Bengal Government have received

any complaint regarding the working of the Office of the Official Liquidator and the delay in making payments to various parties?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH, FAMILY PLANNING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI B. S. MURTHY): (a) Yes.

(b) The West Bengal Development Corporation was established under the West Bengal Development Corporation Act, 1954. Section 16 of the Act empowers the State Government to authorise the Corporation to undertake development schemes in respect of such objects as may be specified, and in particular in respect of:

- (1) Reclamation and improvement of land for establishing townships or for executing housing schemes or for agriculture.
- (2) Water Supply.
- (3) Drainage and Irrigation.
- (4) Disposal of sewage and manufacture of sewage gas.
- (5) Fisheries.
- (6) Dairy Farms.
- (7) Poultry and live-stock.
- (8) Manufacture of salt.

At the time of setting up of the Corporation as a statutory body it was envisaged that the Corporation would undertake schemes which would ultimately be self-financing and would raise funds by issue of shares and by borrowings in the market so that the cost on account of the schemes entrusted to the Corporation and also its establishment might not become a burden on the State Exchequer. This scheme did not work at all. The Corporation depended entirely on funds advanced by Government from time to time and virtually acted as an agency of Government in the matter of implementing schemes entrusted to it. The cost of administrative and engineering establishment of the Corporation was very much higher than what the work-load of the Corporation justified. As the work-load borne by the Corporation could very well be handled by the other Engineering Directorates of Government, the West Bengal Development Corporation was placed under liquidation on 1.4.66.

(c) Out of four Municipal Water Supply Schemes entrusted to the Corporation, three *viz.* (i) Dum Dum, (ii) North Dum Dum and