

Asian Development Bank

2309. Shri Surendra Pal Singh: Will the Minister of Finance be pleased to state:

(a) the number of countries who have so far ratified the agreement for the setting up of the Asian Development Bank; and

(b) how many more are yet to sign the instrument of ratification before the proposed bank can come into existence?

The Minister of Finance (Shri Sachindra Chaudhuri): (a) Out of 31 countries which were signatories to the Agreement establishing the Asian Development Bank, 30 countries ratified the Agreement within the prescribed date viz. 30th September, 1966.

(b) None. The Bank has already come into existence.

Change of Fiscal Year

2310. Shri Surendra Pal Singh: Will the Minister of Finance be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal under consideration to change the country's fiscal year;

(b) if so, the reasons for which this change is sought to be made; and

(c) the time by which Government are likely to come to a final decision in this regard?

The Minister of Finance (Shri Sachindra Chaudhuri): (a) The Government of India have considered this matter on a number of occasions and come to the conclusion that there would be no great advantage in making a change in the present fiscal year.

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

Birthday Purse to the Former Chief Minister of U.P.

2311. Shri P. R. Chakraverti:
Shri H. C. Linga Reddy:

Shri Indrajit Gupta:
Shri Sivamurthi Swamy:

Will the Minister of Finance be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Central Government have started an enquiry into the sources of income of the donors who contributed to the purse presented to Shri C. B. Gupta, former Chief Minister of U.P. on his 65th birthday;

(b) whether Government have decided to levy Income-tax on the purse;

(c) whether Shri C. B. Gupta has raised any objection to this decision;

(d) if so, on what grounds; and

(e) the final decision taken in the matter?

The Minister of Finance (Shri Sachindra Chaudhuri): (a) A list of the donors has been called for from the Samiti which presented the purse to Shri C. B. Gupta. Necessary enquiry into the source of the donations will be made by the Income-tax Officers concerned at the time of the assessments of the donors.

(b) The question whether the amount received by Shri C. B. Gupta is taxable or not has to be decided by the Income-tax Officer, who is the statutory authority empowered to deal with cases of assessment. As the amount was received by Shri C. B. Gupta during the financial year 1966-67, it would fall to be assessed to income-tax, if at all, in the assessment year 1967-68, i.e. on or after the 1st April, 1967.

(c) to (e). Do not arise.

Relief to Pensioners

2312. Shri P. R. Chakraverti:
Shri H. C. Linga Reddy:
Shri Yashpal Singh:

Will the Minister of Finance be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Central Government have received a memorandum from the Pensioners' Association;

(b) whether Government propose to appoint any Committee to examine the question of revision of the Pensioners' Act of 1871 and Pension Commutation Rules to bring them in line with the present day requirements; and

(c) the steps if any, devised to give immediate relief to the pensioners, specially those who receive pensions not exceeding Rs. 300 per month?

The Minister of Finance (Shri Sachindra Chaudhuri): (a) Government have been receiving representations from certain Pensioners' Associations for the grant of relief to pensioners.

(b) No, Sir. The amount of pension admissible in a case is calculated under the relevant Pension Rules, and not under the provisions of the Pensions Act, 1871. This Act, in fact, contains *inter alia* some salutary provisions for the pensioners like freedom from attachment of their pensions. No revision of the Act is at present contemplated. Commutation of pension is optional and the existing rules do not call for any revision.

(c) *Ad hoc* relief to pensioners has been given from time to time, the last occasion on which an increase was given being in October, 1963. The aforesaid increase covers personnel in receipt of pension upto Rs. 200 p.m.

Land in Delhi for L.I.C.

2813. Shri P. E. Chakraverti:
Shri H. C. Linga Reddy:

Will the Minister of Works, Housing and Urban Development be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are of the view that organisations like the Life Insurance Corporation should construct and make available suitable accommodation to the public sector undertakings;

(b) whether it is a fact that a large plot of land in New Delhi has been made available to the Life Insurance

Corporation but no construction has yet been undertaken;

(c) whether Government have sought information from the L.I.C. as to how it wanted to utilise the land; and

(d) if so, the reply thereto?

The Minister of Works, Housing and Urban Development (Shri Mehr Chand Khanna): (a) Yes.

(b) to (d). A plot of land measuring 3.485 acres lying between the Janpath and Parliament Street has been leased out to the Life Insurance Corporation. The possession of this site was handed over to the Corporation in December 1962. The Corporation prepared building plans and submitted them to the Delhi Development Authority, but the latter could not give clearance as the zonal development plan of the area was under consideration. Now, the zonal plan has been finalised and approved by the Government and the Corporation has been advised to prepare their building plans in accordance with the zonal plan and to submit them to the New Delhi Municipal Committee for sanction. This matter was finalised on the 5th of November, 1966 after my discussion with the Chairman, Life Insurance Corporation.

Layout Plan of New Colonies in Delhi

2814. Shri Yashpal Singh: Will the Minister of Works, Housing and Urban Development be pleased to refer to the reply given to Unstarred Question No. 571 on the 28th July, 1966 regarding the layout plans of new colonies around Delhi and state:

(a) whether the zonal development plans have since been finalised by the Delhi Development Authority and approved by Government; and

(b) the names of the unapproved colonies which are likely to be approved during the next six months?