

be pleased to refer to the reply given to Unstarred Question No. 1010 on the 18th November, 1968 and state:

(a) whether any progress has been made on the demands of the Himachal Pradesh Government for the share of royalty on power generated from Himachal Pradesh Water and share in betterment levy charged by the beneficiary States;

(b) the names of the State which are involved and their reaction thereto;

(c) whether any meeting of the concerned States was held; and if so, the result thereof?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF IRRIGATION AND POWER (SHRI SIDDHESHWAR PRASAD) : (a) to (d). The matter is under consideration.

Bill for raising Marriageable Age

1535. SHRI HEM RAJ : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY PLANNING AND WORKS, HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to refer to the reply given to Unstarred Question No. 33 on the 11th November, 1968 and state :

(a) whether the opinions of all the State Governments and Union Territories have been received regarding the raising of the marriageable age limit ; and

(b) if so, the reactions of each State Government and the Union Territory ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY PLANNING, AND WORKS, HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT. (DR. S. CHANDRASEKHAR) :
(a) Not so far.

(b) The reactions of the State Governments and Union Territories from whom replies have received so far are given in the enclosed statement.

STATEMENT

States/Union Territories which are in favour of raising the minimum age at marriage to 21 years in the case of males and 18 years in the case of females are—

Kerala, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Punjab, Uttar Pradesh and West Bengal ; and Union Territories of Andaman and Nicobar Islands, Delhi, and Laccadive, Minicoy and Aminidive Islands.

The Governments of Kerala and Delhi Administration have suggested a still higher minimum age at marriage for males *viz.* 25 years. The Government of Kerala have also suggested the minimum age at marriage for females as 20 years.

The Governments of Assam and Haryana are agreeable to the minimum age at marriage being raised to 20 years and 19 years respectively in the case of males and 16 years in the case of females.

The Union Territories of Dadra and Nagar Haveli and Pondicherry are not in favour of making any change.

Nagaland and N.E.F.A. have no comments to make.

Arrears of Taxes

1536. SHRI HIMATSINGKA :
SHRI HEM RAJ :
SHRI YOGENDRA SHARMA :
SHRI YASHPAL SINGH :
SHRI S. K. TAPURIAH :
SHRI OM PRAKASH TYAGI :
SHRI PRAKASH VIR SHASTRI :
SHRI S. C. SAMANTA :
SHRI YAJNA DATT SHARMA :
SHRIMATI SAVITRI SHARMA :
SHRI SAMAR GUHA :
SHRI HUKAM CHAND KACHWAI
SHRI SHIV KUMAR SHASTRI :
SHRIMATI ILA PALCHOUDHURI :
SHRI SRADHAKAR SUPAKAR :
SHRI VISHWA NATH PANDEY ;
SHRI D. N. PATODIA :

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) the total extent of arrears of Income-tax, Wealth-tax, Estate Duty,

Gift Tax and corporate taxes as on the 31st December, 1968 ;

(b) the number of individuals with arrears of Income-tax or Wealth tax above Rs. 1 crore and names of individuals with such arrears above Rs. 5 crores and the names of the companies with arrears of corporate taxes together amounting to above Rs. 5 crores ; and

(c) the efforts which have been and are being made to collect arrears of Central taxes with a view to avoiding further taxation during the next year ?

THE DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER AND MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI MORARJI DESAI) : (a) and (b). The requisite information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House as early as possible.

(c) Some of the steps that have been taken to expedite the recovery of direct taxes are detailed below :—

- (i) Taking over of recovery work hitherto done by officials of the State Government.

Taken over fully in Commissioner's charges of Delhi, Andhra Pradesh, Gujarat and Rajasthan. Taken over partly in Commissioners' charges of West Bengal, Madras, Mysore, Uttar Pradesh and Bombay.

- (ii) Introduction of scheme of functional distribution of work in 79 ranges of Inspecting Assistant Commissioners. Here the collection of taxes is made the specific function of one or more Income Tax Officers.
- (iii) Responsibility for appropriate action in cases where arrears are outstanding has been fixed on particular officers as under :

Income-tax Officer...	Cases of arrears below Rs.1 lakh.
Inspecting Assistant... Commissioners.	Cases of arrears over Rs.1 lakh and below Rs.5 lakhs.
Commissioner of Income-tax.	... Cases of arrears over Rs. 5 lakhs,

(iv) Creation of Special Recovery Units in the Commissioners' charges to look after the expeditious recovery of outstanding demand.

(v) Rates of interest in case of delayed payments has been raised from 6% to 9% with effect from 1st October, 1967.

U.S. Aid

**1537. SHRI HIMATSINGKA :
SHRI S.K. TAPURIAH :**

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government of U.S.A. have recently declared their intentions for giving financial aid to developing countries during 1969-70 and if so, the total extent thereof;

(b) how much of this aid is expected by India and how far this will satisfy India's demand for such aid from the U.S.A. ; and

(c) how far India's expectations of foreign aid from the U.S.A. during that year would remain unsatisfied and the steps taken by Government to find alternative resources to meet such aid requirements ?

THE DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER AND MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI MORARJI DESAI) : (a) The U.S. President has requested the U.S. Congress for a total appropriation of U.S. \$ 2,347.8 million for economic assistance to developing countries for U.S. fiscal year 1970 (July 1, 1969—June 30, 1970) as part of his budget proposals for 1970.

(b) and (c). In the absence of information on country-wise allocations, it is not possible to say how much of this aid India can expect to receive and the extent to which India's requirements will be met from the United States. Moreover actual aid flows available to India and to other countries will depend on the aid appropriation that will be finally voted by the U.S. Congress.

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1538. SHRI M.D. SONDHI : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY PLANNING AND WORKS, HOUS-