

Societies soon after the land is acquired and possession has been taken.

(d) Undeveloped land is being allotted to Group IV Cooperative House Building Societies. The premium for land has been fixed @ Rs. 8/- per sq. yd. and zonal road contribution @ 50 paise per sq. yd.

Foreign Exchange Position

1546. SHRI S. M. BANERJEE :
SHRI YAJNA DATT SHARMA:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to refer to the reply given to Unstarred Question No. 3760 on the 9th December, 1968 and state :

(a) whether the position of foreign exchange has shown any improvement since then ; and

(b) if not, the further steps taken to improve the conditions ?

THE DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER AND MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI MORARJI DESAI) : (a) and (b). The basic trends of improvement in exports and reduction in imports have continued beyond the period covered in the reply given to Unstarred Question No. 3760 on 9th December, 1968. Since then two repayments have been made to the IMF amounting to a total of \$ 70.5 million, after which the reserves declined by \$ 55 million between 1st December, 1968 and 31st January, 1969. Continued attention is being given to export promotion and import substitution.

Assistance to U.P.

1547. SHRI S. M. BANERJEE : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government of U.P. had demanded financial aid to better the conditions of the people of Eastern Districts of U.P. for the year 1968-69 ;

(b) if so whether any financial aid was given ; and

(c) if so, the amount thereof ?

THE DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER AND MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI MORARJI DESAI) : (a). No, Sir.

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

Kameng Project in Nefa

1548. SHRI S. M. BANERJEE : Will the Minister of IRRIGATION AND POWER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Kameng Project in NEFA has been abandoned ;

(b) if not, when the work is likely to start ; and

(c) the details of the project ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF IRRIGATION AND POWER (SHRI SIDDHESHWAR PRASAD) : (a) and (b). No, Sir. Surveys and detailed investigations at the Kameng project site are in progress.

(c) The details of the project will be known after investigations are completed and a project report prepared.

Exchange Rate of Indian Currency for Import of Foreign Publications

1549. SHRI BISWANARAYAN SHASTRI : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) the exchange rate of Indian currency for importing foreign publications including newspapers ;

(b) whether this rate is lower than the rate relating to other items of import ; and

(c) if so, the reasons therefor ?

THE DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER AND MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI MORARJI DESAI) : (a) and (b). The exchange rate for importing foreign publications including newspapers would be the same as for other imports.

(c) Does not arise.

Recruiting Centre for O.N.G.C. in Assam

1550. SHRI BISWANARAYAN SHASTRI : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS AND MINES AND METALS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have been considering a proposal for establishing a recruiting centre in Assam for interviewing the candidates for employment in the Oil and Natural Gas Commission ; and

(b) if not, the reasons therefor ?