

The Minister of Finance (Shri Sachindra Chaudhuri): (a) The allegations are being verified.

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

Smuggled Goods Seized in Bombay

1585. Shri Ram Sewak Yadav:

Shri Yashpal Singh:

Shri Hukam Chand

Kachhavalya:

Shri Bada:

Shri Viahram Prasad:

Will the Minister of Finance be pleased to refer to the reply given to Unstarred Question No. 508 on the 26th July, 1966 regarding smuggled goods seized in Bombay and state:

(a) whether the investigations have since been completed into the matter; and

(b) if so, the action taken by Government against the persons concerned?

The Minister of Finance (Shri Sachindra Chaudhuri): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The case is under adjudication.

Reserve Bank Employees

1586. Shrimati Renu Chakravarty: Will the Minister of Finance be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the highly qualified Cash Department employees of the Reserve Bank of India have less promotional avenues than those on clerical side; and

(b) if so, the reasons therefor?

The Minister of Finance (Shri Sachindra Chaudhuri): (a) and (b). It cannot be said that the cash department employees of the Reserve Bank have less avenues for promotion than those employed on the general side. It is the policy of the Bank not to recruit highly qualified persons for the cash department, the work being of a routine nature, but any person who might graduate or acquire other banking

qualification after joining service in the cash department is eligible for transfer to the general side departments with protection of pay facility.

Electric Crematoria

1587. Dr. L. M. Singhvi: Will the Minister of Health and Family Planning be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have any scheme to assist the establishment of Electric crematoria in different parts of the country; and

(b) if so, the details and the criteria of the scheme?

The Minister of Health and Family Planning (Dr. Sushila Nayar): (a) No.

(b) Does not arise.

Dependence on Foreign Aid

1588. Shri M. S. Murti: Will the Minister of Planning and Social Welfare be pleased to state:

(a) whether his attention has been drawn to a press report which appeared in the *Indian Express* of the 30th September, 1966 that the Minister for Iron and Steel, while addressing the progressive group on the Fourth Plan in Bombay reported to have said that too much dependence on foreign aid will make the Nation "lose its soul";

(b) if so, whether due attention has been paid to this aspect while drafting the Fourth Plan; and

(c) the steps taken to avoid dependence on foreign aid?

The Minister of Planning and Social Welfare (Shri Asoka Mehta): (a) Yes, Sir. The account of the speech made by the Minister of Iron and Steel to the "Progressive Group" in Bombay in the press report which appeared in the *Indian Express*, dated 30th September, 1966 is misleading in several respects.

(b) and (c). The objective of self-reliance and self-generating growth is embodied in the broad strategy of our

Plans. Programmes for export promotion and import substitution have already been given very high priority in the Fourth Plan.

Municipal Finance Corporation

1589. **Shri Shree Narayan Das:** Will the Minister of Health and Family Planning be pleased to state:

(a) whether a suggestion for the establishment of Municipal Finance Corporation for helping Municipal Corporations with necessary funds for their capital works has been made; and

(b) if so, the reaction of Government thereto?

The Minister of Health and Family Planning (Dr. Sushila Nayar): (a) and (b). (i) The Joint Session of the Ninth meeting of the Central Council of Local Self Government and the Fourth Conference of State Ministers of Town Planning held in September, 1963, in New Delhi had recommended the setting up of an Urban Development Financial Corporation. The suggestion was referred to the Ministry of Finance who expressed the view that the setting up of such a Corporation might not be desirable or feasible.

(ii) The Committee on Augmentation of Financial Resources of Urban Local Bodies set up by the Central Council of Local Self Government has recommended the setting up of an Urban Development Board for acting as a Central agency to give long-term and short-term credits needed by the local bodies for remunerative and non-remunerative schemes. The Report of the Committee was forwarded to all the State Governments, Ministry of Finance and Planning Commission etc. for necessary action. The Central Council of Local Self Government at its meeting held in February, 1965, recommended that the comments on the Report received from the State Governments might be examined by a Committee consisting of Professor M. S. Thacker, Member, Planning Commission, Deputy Minister for Health and the Minister for Urban

Development, Maharashtra. This committee has not yet finalised its recommendations.

(iii) The Rural Urban Relationship Committee also set up by the Central Council of Local Self Government have recommended that with a view to meeting the capital requirements of municipal enterprises a Municipal Finance Corporation should be set up to advance loans to local bodies. The Report of the Committee has been forwarded to all State Governments, Municipal Corporations, Ministry of Finance, Planning Commission etc. for their comments.

Banking in Rural Areas

1590. **Shri Shree Narayan Das:** Will the Minister of Finance be pleased to state:

(a) the number of branches opened by the Commercial banks including the State Bank of India in the rural areas so far;

(b) how many one-man banks are functioning at present in the rural areas started by the State Bank of India; and

(c) how they are working?

The Minister of Finance (Shri Sachindra Chaudhuri): (a) The State Bank and its subsidiaries and the commercial and co-operative banks have now about 2,250 offices in rural and semi-urban areas. Between the 1st January, 1962 and the 30th September, 1966, 597 offices were opened by the commercial banks, including the State Bank and its subsidiaries in unbanked rural and semi-urban areas.

(b) Eight one-man offices have so far been opened by the subsidiaries of the State Bank.

(c) Considering that the one-man offices are meant to carry on an educative propaganda to inculcate the banking habit among the rural people, they have been working quite successfully, though not at a profit.