

and the time likely to be taken to collect the required information and the action taken against the defaulters ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI P. C. SETHI) : (a) to (d). The total amount held by 33 parties in their accounts as on 31st December, 1968 stood at Rs. 67.13 lakhs. Two accounts have since been closed, and the last known balance of the 14 remaining parties is Rs. 31.62 lakhs.

**Arrears of Electricity and Furniture Due from the Ministers**

1050. SHRI JAI SINGH :  
SHRI HARDAYAL DEVGUN :  
SHRI YAJNA DATT SHARMA :

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY PLANNING AND WORKS, HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to refer to the reply given to the Unstarred Question No. 3748 on the 18th August, 1969 and state :

(a) whether arrears of electricity, water and furniture rent due from Servashri Satya Narain Sinha, Fakhruddin Ali Ahmed and B. R. Bhagat, Cabinet Ministers have since been cleared by them ;

(b) if so, the amount paid by each one of them ;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor and the action taken by Government in the matter and at what level ;

(d) whether Government propose to amend the Ministers' Salaries and Allowances Act with a view to charge interest from habitual defaulters ; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor ;

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY PLANNING, AND WORKS, HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI B. S. MURTHY) : (a) and (b). The position of payment of dues, as shown in reply to the Question referred to by the Member, by the three Ministers is as under :

(i) The arrears of Rs. 424.72 and Rs. 10,437.06 on account of electricity and water charges and furniture rent due from Sharvashri B. R. Bhagat and Fakhruddin Ali Ahmed respectively have since been paid by them.

(ii) Out of arrears of Rs. 1281.39 due from Shri Satya Narain Sinha, on account of electricity and water charges, an amount of Rs. 1,000/- has since been paid, leaving a balance of Rs. 281.39.

(c) Shri Satya Narain Sinha has been reminded to remit the dues.

(d) There is no such proposal.

(e) Dues from Shri Satya Narain Sinha are entirely on account of electricity and water charges. Under the Salaries and Allowances of Ministers' Act 1952, the Ministers are entitled to free supply of electricity and water at their residences without any limit. The ceiling of Rs. 2,400/- per annum of this account is a voluntary one and as such the question of amending the Act does not arise.

**Medical Colleges in the Country**

1051. SHRI B. P. MANDAL : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY PLANNING AND WORKS, HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) the State-wise number of Medical Colleges in the country ;

(b) the State-wise ratio of Medical Colleges according to the population ;

(c) whether it is not a fact that some States are much behind the others in so far as the population ratio is concerned ;

(d) whether there has been persistent demand for central grant from the state of Bihar for opening a new medical College at Bhagalpur ; and

(e) if so, Government's reaction thereto ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY PLANNING, AND WORKS, HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI B. S. MURTHY) : (a) and (b). A statement is laid on the Table of the House. [Placed in Library. See No. LT—2073/69]

(c) Yes.

(d) and (e). The proposal of the Government of Bihar to start a Medical College at Bhagalpur in the Fourth Five Year Plan has been agreed to by the Central Government. Establishment of new Medical Colleges in the Fourth Plan is, however,

included in the State sector and Central assistance for State Plans would be admissible in the form of block loans/grants.

**Request for Power of Distribution of Foreign Exchange by Tamil Nadu Government**

1052. SHRI MUHAMMAD SHERIFF :  
SHRI J. K. CHOUDHURY :

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Tamil Nadu Government has urged the Centre for some new powers in regard to the distribution of foreign exchange ; and

(b) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI P. C. SETHI) : (a) and (b). The Education Minister, Tamil Nadu, made a suggestion at the meeting of the Committee of National Development Council, held on September 26, 1969, that State Governments may be given some powers for allocation of foreign exchange. No details were indicated.

**Statue of Mahatma Gandhi in New Delhi**

1053. SHRI MOHAN SWARUP :  
SHRI BAIDHAR BEHERA :  
SHRI SRINIBAS MISRA :  
SHRI RAM AVTAR SHARMA :

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY PLANNING AND WORKS, HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that the construction of life-size statue of Mahatma Gandhi at the India Gate, New Delhi, where the Statue of King George V stood, has been held up ; and

(b) if so, the reasons thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY PLANNING ; AND WORKS, HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI B. S. MURTHY) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The site under the canopy where the statue of King George V stood has not been considered suitable for installing the statue

of Mahatma Gandhi. An alternative site for this purpose is proposed to be developed.

**Assistance offered by French Firm for off-shore Drilling in Cambay Region**

1054. SHRI C. JANARDHANAN :  
SHRI BHOGENBRA JHA :  
SHRI BENI SHANKER SHARMA :  
SHRI K. HALDAR :  
SHRI RAMAVTAR SHASTRI :  
SHRI B. K. DAS-  
CHOWDHURY :

Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS AND MINES AND METALS be pleased to state :

(a) whether a French firm has offered assistance in off-shore drilling in the Cambay region ;

(b) if so, the nature of assistance offered ; and

(c) what is Government's decision thereon ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS AND MINES AND METALS (SHRI D. R. CHAVAN) : (a) A French group led by the French Petroleum Institute has offered assistance in off-shore drilling in the deeper waters of west coast.

(b) and (c). All the offers so far received are under examinations ; it would not be in public interest to disclose the details of these proposals at this stage.

**Extension of Term of American consultant by Hindustan Copper Limited**

1055. SHRI K. HALDAR :  
SHRI BHOGENBRA JHA :  
SHRI C. JANARDHANAN :  
SHRI RAMAVTAR SHASTRI :

Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS AND MINES AND METALS be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that the term of W. K. E. American Consultant is being extended upto 1970-75 by the Hindustan Copper Limited ; and

(b) if so, the justification for extending it ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS AND MINES AND METALS (SHRI JAGANATH RAO) : (a) It is pre-