

Expenditure on "Sun House" in London

435. SHRI RAM KISHAN GUPTA : Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that a huge amount was spent on sun-house in London belonging to Government without proper sanction ;

(b) if so, the amount spent and reasons for not taking sanction ; and

(c) whether the Comptroller and Auditor General of India has raised any objection ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI SURENDRA PAL SINGH) : (a) No, Sir. The work on essential repairs of "Sun House" estimated to cost £4300 was undertaken with the concurrence of the Financial Adviser in London. The expenditure involved was subsequently regularised by Government.

(b) The actual expenditure incurred amounted to £6225. As no repairs were undertaken after 1957-58 and as the official surveyors advised carrying out of essential repairs without delay before the onset of winter, it became imperative to take the work in hand.

(c) Yes, Sir. This appeared as a para in the Audit Report (Civil) 1969, which was considered by the Public Accounts Committee in their meeting held on 31st October, 1969.

Nationalisation of Foreign Trade

436. SHRI MAYAVAN :
SHRI NARAYANAN :
SHRI N. R. LASKAR :
SHRI CHENGALRAYA
NAIDU :
SHRI DHANDAPANI :
SHRI HIMATSINGKA :
SHRI SAMINATHAN :
SHRI BANSH NARAIN
SINGH :
SHRI RAM SINGH
AYARWAL :
SHRI KANWAR LAL GUPTA :
SHRI BRIJ BHUSHAN LAL :
SHRI RAM SWARUP
VIDYARTHI :

Will the Minister of FOREIGN TRADE be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have worked out a programme for taking over import and export trade ;

(b) if so, when the final decision is likely to be taken ; and

(c) the main features of the programme chalked out by Government in this regard ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF FOREIGN TRADE (SHRI RAM SEWAK) : (a) to (c). It is the policy of the Government to extend progressively the scope of activities of the State Trading Agencies in the import and export trade. In accordance with this policy, import and export of a number of commodities has been canalised through STC and MMTC. Such canalisation is proposed to be extended in future to such new items as are found suitable for State Trading.

A statement showing items whose import or export is canalised through the STC and MMTC is laid on the Table of the House. [*Placed in Library. See No. LT-2592/70.*]

Power Plant for N. E. F. A.

437. SHRI MAYAVAN :
SHRI N. R. LASKAR :
SHRI NARAYANAN :
SHRI CHENGALRAYA
NAIDU :
SHRI DHANDAPANI :
SHRI SAMINATHAN :

Will the Minister of IRRIGATION AND POWER be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that Government are considering a proposal to set up a power plant in NEFA ;

(b) if so, whether the project report has been prepared ;

(c) if so, when the final decision is likely to be taken ; and

(d) the cost of expenditure involved ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF IRRIGATION AND POWER (SHRI SIDDHESHWAR PRASAD) : (a) and (b). A hydro-electric project in the Kameng District of NEFA is under detailed investigation at present. The project report will be prepared after the detailed investigations are completed.

(c) and (d). Details of cost etc. will be known after the project report is prepared. Final decision regarding the implementation of the Project will then be taken after considering the project report.

Libellous Assertions about certain Parts of India

438. SHRI MAYAVAN :
SHRI NARAYANAN :
SHRI N. R. LASKAR :
SHRI CHENGALRAYA
NAIDU :
SHRI RANJEET SINGH :
SHRI DHANDAPANI :
SHRI SAMINATHAN :

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that his Ministry has examined letters written by some M.P's containing extracts from a "Purported Pamphlets" published in 1967 containing certain fairly tendentious, false and slanted assertions about certain parts of India ;

(b) if so, the details of the examination ; and

(c) the action which has been taken against the persons held responsible ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI SURENDRA PAL SINGH) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Government of DRVN have denied having published any such pamphlet. Enquiries made by our Consulate General in Hanoi have not established any evidence of such a pamphlet having been published in Hanoi.

(c) Does not arise.

Exchange of Letters among Prime Ministers of India, U. S. S. R. and Pakistan President

439. SHRI NARAYANAN :
SHRI MAYAVAN :
SHRI N. R. LASKAR :
SHRI CHENGALRAYA NAIDU :
SHRI DHANDAPANI :
SHRI SAMINATHAN :

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that the U. S. S. R Prime Minister had written a letter to the Indian Prime Minister on the occasion of the Fourth Anniversary of the Tashkent Declaration ;

(b) if so, the contents thereof ;

(c) whether the Prime Minister of India also wrote to the U. S. S. R. Prime Minister and President of Pakistan ;

(d) if so, the details thereof ; and

(e) whether any reply was received from President of Pakistan ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI SURENDRA PAL SINGH) : (a) and (b). Yes, Sir. The text of the letter is placed on the Table of the House. [*Placed in Library. See No. LT-2593/70*]

(c) to (e). The texts of the messages from the Prime Minister to Chairman Kosygin and President Yahya Khan and of the latter's reply are also placed on the Table of the House. [*Placed in Library. See No. LT-2593/70*]

Criteria for Selection of Industrially Backward Districts

440. SHRI MAYAVAN :
SHRI NARAYANAN :
SHRI N. R. LASKAR :
SHRI CHENGALRAYA
NAIDU :
SHRI DHANDAPANI :
SHRI SAMINATHAN :

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that the Planning Commission has laid down the criteria to be adopted for the selection of industrially backward Districts in consultation with the financial institutions and the States ;

(b) if so, whether the Planning Commission had already addressed to the State Governments in the matter ; and

(c) if so, the final decision taken in this regard ?

THE PRIME MINISTER, MINISTER OF FINANCE, MINISTER OF ATOMIC ENERGY AND MINISTER OF PLANNING (SHRIMATI INDIRA GANDHI) : (a) The Planning Commission, in consultation with the financial institutions, has