

an amount of commercial bank credit to agriculture at the end of the Fourth Five Year Plan period would be around Rs. 250 crores. The bulk of this is expected to go to the poor farmers. As for advances to the backward communities, bank advances are not earmarked for any particular community. However, under the various schemes framed by nationalised banks for extending credit to the poorer sections of the society, it is hoped, backward communities also will be able to avail of bank credit in an increasing measure. No estimate of such credit is, however possible.

Filing of Income-tax and Wealth-tax Returns by Sheikh Abdullah

1166. SHRI KANWAR LAL GUPTA : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that in spite of notices issued against Sheikh Abdullah under the Income-tax and wealth-tax Acts, he did not file the income-tax and wealth tax returns ;

(b) if so, the reasons why no action has been taken against him ; and

(c) the reasons stated by Sheikh Abdullah for not filing the income tax returns ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI VIDYA CHARAN SHUKLA) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The notices issued to Sheikh Abdullah under the Income-tax and Wealth-tax Acts relate to the assessment year 1969-70. The Income-tax Officers concerned is making investigations about whether Sheikh Abdullah had any taxable income or net wealth. The question of taking action will arise only after the enquiries are completed.

(c) No reasons have been given in writing.

Excise Duty on Plastic Tubes and Sheets

1167. SHRI B. K. DASCHOW-DHURY : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government had decided to charge additional excise duty on plastic tubes and sheets and there had been resentment by the industry in this respect; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and the steps taken by Government to revise its decision ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI VIDYA CHARAN SHUKLA) : (a) and (b). The Government decided to levy excise duty, with effect from 1-5-1970, on polyethylene layflat tubings, sheets, sheetings and films which before that date were exempted from the levy. But after examining representations received from the industry affected, the *status quo ante* has been restored from 17-7-1970.

Contribution by LIC and Unit Trust for Construction of Multi-storeyed Residential Buildings

1168. SHRI B. K. DAS CHOWDHURY : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Life Insurance Corporation and the Unit Trust have agreed to contribute during 1970-71 towards accelerating the construction of multi-storeyed residential buildings by the newly floated Housing Corporation ; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and to what extent ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI VIDYA CHARAN SHUKLA) : (a) and (b). There have been no formal agreements so far, but if any proposals come up from the newly floated Housing and Urban development Finance Corporation, they will evoke a favourable response from the L.I.C. and U.T.I, subject to the terms being found acceptable.