

for purposes of Central assistance. In view of the intensity of distress in these areas, the continuance of the special gratuitous relief scheme in the current financial year too during the period April-May, 1970 has been accepted for purposes of Central assistance. The Central team which visited the State in May 1970 has, *inter alia*, recommended that since scheme for taking up productive works had now become available with the district authorities, the special gratuitous relief scheme could be replaced by a programme of regular relief works. The requirement of funds on this account has been included in the ceilings of expenditure adopted by the Government of India for purposes of Central assistance.

(c) to (e). The Central team did not express any opinion regarding the propriety or otherwise of declaring famine in particular districts. The team merely took note of the magnitude of relief operations in Rajasthan and suggested that the State Government might like to review the rules/procedure regarding the declaration of famine. The responsibility for taking up and implementing relief measures necessitated on account of drought and other natural calamities is that of the State Governments concerned. The suggestions of the Central team have already been forwarded to the Government of Rajasthan for their consideration.

Inter-State Chit Funds Racket

4523. SHRI BABURAO PATEL: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that an inter-State gang has been operating a chit funds racket for the last 3 years with its headquarters in Vijayawada;

(b) if so, the names of these bogus companies and the total amount allegedly swindled by them during this period;

(c) the names of persons arrested so far in this connection; and

(d) whether Government propose to order a C.B.I. Inquiry into the racket, and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI VIDYA CHARAN SHUKLA): (a) to (c). According to information available Vazahppully's

and Vamana Trading Chit Fund Private Ltd., which was originally functioning in Bangalore subsequently opened branches in Andhra Pradesh (at Vijayawada), Kerala and Madras. The Vijayawada branch was opened in 1967. The Managing Director of the company is also stated to have registered the Annai Chit Fund Private Ltd. in Bangalore with its central office at Vijayawada. This company later opened several branches in the coastal districts of Andhra Pradesh. A Memorandum on the operation of the two Chit Fund Companies was presented by some persons in the first week of June, 1970 to the Home Minister of the Andhra Pradesh Government. Investigations have been started and are still in progress. No arrests have been made so far and the State Police authorities have issued an advertisement calling for particulars of the amounts which are payable by the two companies. The exact amount involved cannot be ascertained until the investigations are completed.

(d) As the State Police authorities are investigating the case, the Government has no proposal to order an enquiry by the Central Bureau of Investigation.

Government Officials Visit to Residence of Nawab of Rampur

4524. SHRI ZULFIQUAR ALI KHAN: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to refer to reply given to Unstarred Question No. 10141 on the 18th May, 1970 and state:

(a) whether the valuation under Wealth tax Act of each of the 66 (sixty-six) items of jewellery, etc., which were handed over by the Nawab of Rampur during the course of Government Official's visit to his residence on 25th August, 1969 has been made;

(b) if so, their full description and valuation;

(c) whether the valuation of each of the articles mentioned above has been accepted by Government;

(d) if not, the valuation Government have made of each of the said items; and

(e) whether these items are still deposited with the State Bank of India or they have been released?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI VIDYA CHARAN SHUKLA): (a) Yes, Sir. Valuation of all the 66 items of jewellery has been made.

(b) Full description and valuation are given in the statement laid on the Table of the House. [Placed in Library. See No. LT-4112/70]

(c) Unless any evidence to the contrary is provided, the Government will have to go by the valuation made.

(d) The question does not arise, in view of (c) above.

(e) These items of jewellery are still deposited with the State Bank of India, New Delhi.

Valuables Belonging to Begum of Rampur

4525. SHRI ZULFIQUAR ALI KHAN: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to refer to the reply given to Unstarred Question No. 4370 on the 30th March, 1970 and No. 10142 on the 18th May, 1970 regarding the valuables belonging to the Begum of Rampur and state:

(a) whether the information has since been collected;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the steps Government are taking in this case;

(d) whether the seized articles are still with the jewellers or whether Government have confiscated them; and

(e) whether these articles were shown in the wealth tax returns filed by the Begum of Rampur and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI VIDYA CHARAN SHUKLA): (a) to (e). The requisite information is not yet available. It is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Filling of Names of Nominees by Depositors of State Banks and Nationalised Banks

4526. SHRI C. K. BHATTACHARYYA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Postal Savings Banks have

rule under which depositors nominate persons who would get the balance after their death;

(b) whether by virtue of such nomination the nominated persons are allowed to withdraw the money without succession certificate;

(c) if so, whether Government propose to introduce the same rule in the State Banks and Nationalised Banks for the convenience of the depositors?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCES (SHRI VIDYA CHARAN SHUKLA) (a) and (b). Yes, Sir. Rule 16(1) of the Post Office Savings Banks Rules, 1965 as amended upto 22nd August 1966 provides for the nomination by the depositor, of any person or persons who in the event of the depositor's death shall become entitled to payment of the amount due on that account. No nomination is permitted in the case of accounts of minors and persons of unsound mind. When a depositor dies, the nominee in whose favour a nomination is still in force, has to make an application in the prescribed form accompanied by proof of death of the depositor, to the Head Savings Bank of the office at which the account stands.

(c) Government are of the view that there is no strong justification for according special treatment to bank deposits as compared to other assets or claims such as shares, debentures, dividends declared but not paid, deposits in non-banking companies or firms, Unit certificates, etc. in respect of which production of succession certificates by the heirs is necessary.

Tenure of stay of Accounts Officers in Air Force Accounts

4527. SHRI RAM SEWAK YADAV: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to refer to the reply given to Unstarred Question No. 10105 dated the 18th May, 1970 regarding the stay of an Assistant Accounts Officer in the Air Force Accounts at one place and state:

(a) the number of officers of the Air Force Accounts who have stayed in Delhi for more than 5 years (including the posting at Palam or New Delhi);

(b) the result of the review made in making them stay on in Delhi for such longer period; and