

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF IRRIGATION AND POWER (SHRI SIDDHESHWAR PRA-SAD) : (a) to (c). In the 14th Meeting of the Central Flood Control Board held at New Delhi on the 16th September, 1968, the revision of pattern of financing flood control, drainage and anti-sea erosion works was recommended. The recommendation of the Central Flood Control Board was considered in consultation with the Planning Commission but it was not found possible to accept this recommendation as the National Development Council had already decided that the pattern of Central Assistance to the States during the Fourth Five Year Plan would be in the form of block loans and grants without being tied to any individual head of development.

**Prevalence of 'Sati' System in Madhya Pradesh**

539. SHRI M. H. GOWDA : Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the practice of 'Sati' is still in vogue in some parts of Kosir village in Raigarh District of Madhya Pradesh ; and

(b) if so, the steps taken to educate the Madhya Pradesh Government for the abolition of this system ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS, AND MINISTER OF STATE, DEPARTMENTS OF ELECTRONICS AND SCIENTIFIC AND INDUSTRIAL RESEARCH (SHRI K. C. PANT) : (a) No, Sir. However, there was a stray incident in village Kosir where a woman committed sati as a result of sudden emotional imbalance.

(b) Does not arise.

**Export and Import performance of Minerals and Metals Trading Corporation**

540. SHRI S. R. DAMANI : Will the Minister of FOREIGN TRADE be pleased to state :

(a) the export and import performance of the MMTC in the major items handled by them upto September, 1970 and how it compares with the targets fixed and the commitments made to the buyers ; and

(b) what efforts are being made to revive exports of items which have shown a decline ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF FOREIGN TRADE (SHRI RAM SEWAK) : (a) and (b). Targets have been fixed on annual basis. However, export and import performance of the MMTC in the half year April-September, 1970 has been at a substantially higher level as compared to the exports and imports in the corresponding period last year and it is hoped that the MMTC will be able to fulfill the targets fixed and commitments made with buyers for 1970-71.

**New Muslim Organisations in Kerala**

541. SHRI BABURAO PATEL : Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether she is aware that several new Muslim organisations like the Kerala Islam and Modern Age Society, Anti-Modern Age Conference, the Thinkers Association, Muslim Defence Organisation and Islam International have been recently founded in Kerala with very influential membership ;

(b) whether the M. D. O. (Muslim Defence Organisation) and I. I. (Islam International) are militant organisations which have already begun giving military training to their members with guns and ammunition supplied by China and Pakistan ;

(c) whether the Kerala Police have ceased to investigate the anti-national activities carried out, particularly in the Mallapuram district, by these new communal bodies ; and

(d) if so, what steps Government propose to take to check the growth of new militant Muslim Organisations ?