

- (ii) For studies abroad loans are given for Rs. 5000/- to Rs. 35,000/- depending upon the student's need and repayment capacity in each case.

The loan amount will be disbursed in instalments.

- (4) *Repayment* : The loan is repayable is monthly/half-yearly instalments spreading over a period of 3 years commencing one year after completion of study or after securing employment whichever is earlier.
- (5) *Rate of Interest* : Interest charged by most of the banks is around 9½% p.a. on these loans. Some banks grant a rebate of 1% p.a. for prompt payment of instalments.
- (6) *Other terms and conditions* : (i) the duration of course should not exceed 2 to 3 years.
- (ii) the student will have to provide guarantee of the parents/guardian or a third party.
- (iii) the student is also required to take out an endowment Life Insurance Policy on his own life for a sum equivalent to the amount of the loan and assign the policy to the bank. In the event of the student not being able to pay his premium out of his own resources, the premium will be paid from the loan amount.

Some banks have similar schemes for graduate courses also.

- (d) Terms and conditions of the education loans are quite liberal.

Collection of Money by the Unregistered Concern for Propaganda against Chinese Aggression

5290. SHRI RABI RAY : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

- (a) whether his attention has been drawn to the press reports that an unregistered concern called National Publicity Forum collected upto Rs. 20 lakhs in Calcutta to do propaganda against the Chinese aggression ;

- (b) if so, whether his attention has also been drawn to the fact that the amount has

been invested in Basumati, a Bengali daily of Calcutta ; and

- (c) whether Government made any investigation into the matter and if so, the result thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI VIDYA CHARAN SHUKLA) : (a) and (b). Reports have come to the notice of the Government of alleged investment by the National Publicity Forum in Basumati (P) Ltd. out of funds alleged to have been collected by the former.

- (c) The investigations are in progress.

Maintenance of National Highways for Vehicular Traffic

5291. SHRI R. BARUA :
SHRI CHENGALRAYA
NAIDU :

Will the Minister of SHIPPING AND TRANSPORT be pleased to state :

- (a) whether it is a fact that most of the National Highways in the country are not fit for vehicular traffic as they are not being maintained properly ;

(b) whether Government have drawn some scheme to renovate these roads to ensure proper maintenance ; and

- (c) if so, the details thereof and expenditure to be incurred for the purpose ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING AND TRANSPORT (SHRI IQBAL SINGH) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c). Maintenance is a continuing process and National Highways are being maintained in as good a condition as possible within the available resources. An expenditure of Rs. 12.85 crores was incurred during 1969-70.

Complaints against Taxi and Scooter drivers in Delhi

5292. SHRI SHRI CHAND GOYAL : Will the Minister of SHIPPING AND TRANSPORT be pleased to state :

- (a) whether the taxi drivers and scooter piers in the capital refuse to cover short distances ; and

- (b) whether there are complaints of