

Shortage of Small Change

1769. SHRI CHENGALRAYA NAIDU : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that shortage of small coins is prevailing for some time past in the country ;

(b) if so, reasons for this shortage of currency ; and

(c) steps taken to overcome the problem and circulate adequate currency in the country ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI VIDYA CHARAN SHUKLA) : (a) to (c). There is no general shortage of coins in the country. Some complaints regarding shortage of coins from a few places are being received from time to time and the reasons for such complaints are difficult to ascertain as this reflect mainly local or seasonal factors. However, the Reserve Bank of India have been making additional supplies of small coins to those places from where request have been received by them for supply of such coins. Further Government have taken steps to increase production of small coins in the Mints.

Inland Port at Farakka

1770. SHRI KEDAR NATH SINGH : SHRI HIMATSINGKA :

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

(a) at what stage is the proposal to set up an inland port at Farakka ; and

(b) what studies have been made to determine the commercial viability of this Port ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING AND TRANSPORT (SHRI IQBAL SINGH) : (a) and (b). There is at present no proposal under consideration of the Government to set up an inland port at Farakka. However a post-Farakka traffic study to assess the quantum of traffic likely to be offered to the river route after completion of the Farakka Barrage is in pro-

gress. The question of setting up an inland port can be considered if the study reveals sufficient traffic originating and terminating at Farakka.

Implementation of Resolution Regarding Wages Passed at AICC Session Held at Patna

1771. SHRI KEDAR NATH SINGH : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state what specific steps, have been chalked out to break the vicious circle of wages following the rising prices in the light of the economic resolutions passed at the A. I. C. C. session held at Patna recently ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI VIDYA CHARAN SHUKLA) : The ultimate solution to the problem of higher prices leading to a demand for higher wages lies in greater production, which would also ensure that increases in wages do not out run increases in productivity. The Fourth Five Year Plan has detailed various measures to increase production, and a successful wages-income policy will largely depend on the fulfilment of the targets laid down in the Plan. Meanwhile, the Government try to ensure price stability through fiscal and monetary measures, through enlarged imports of raw materials and intermediate products in short supply, through administrative regulation and through maintaining a wide net-work for the public distribution of foodgrains to the vulnerable sections of the community.

Overseas Scholarship and Passage Grants to Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribe Students during 1969-70

1772. SHRI SIDDAYYA : Will the Minister of EDUCATION AND YOUTH SERVICES be pleased to state :

(a) the names of the applicants (with their academic qualifications) who had applied for the award of the overseas scholarship and passage grants for the Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes and other Backward classes in the year 1969-70 in each category separately ; and