

(a) the time by which the package of measures for price control will be announced;

(b) how far the State Governments will be involved in these measures; and

(c) the details of articles that would be brought within the package?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE). (a) to (c). The Government have already appointed a Cabinet Committee on Prices to review the price situation and take necessary measures to contain rise in prices of essential commodities.

Modernisation of Indian Iron and Steel Company Ltd. at Kulti

317. SHRI CHITTA BASU: Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have under consideration a Japan-collaborated Project for the modernisation of the Indian Iron and Steel Company Ltd. at Kulti (Asansol) in West Bengal; and

(b) if so, the present stage of its implementation?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND MINES AND THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI DINESH GOSWAMI): (a) and (b). There is no proposal for collaboration with Japan for the modernisation of Kulti Works of IISCO which have basically foundry facilities. However, a proposal to modernise iron and steel works of IISCO at Burnpur with Japanese credit is currently under examination in the Government. Preliminary and site preparation works are in progress in Burnpur.

Payment of Interim Grant for Bombay

318. SHRI RAM NAIK: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Ninth Finance Commission has recommended payment of interim grant of Rs. 50 crores for Bombay to be matched by similar grant of Rs. 50 crores by State Government with a condition that it should be utilised before 31st March, 1990;

(b) if so, whether the payment has been made;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(d) whether any time-bound action is proposed by Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE): (a) to (d). The Ninth Finance Commission has recommended in its First Report for 1989-90 a grant of Rs. 50 crores to Government of Maharashtra for slum clearance and environmental improvement of slums and provision of basic amenities in the city of Bombay with an equal matching contribution by the State Government.

The State Government have proposed a number of schemes with a total outlay of Rs. 138.74 crores (which will be limited to Rs. 100 crores for purpose of utilising the above mentioned grant). Of these, schemes with an outlay of Rs. 97.55 crores have so far been approved.

An amount of Rs. 12.19 crores have so far been released to the State Government on 'on-account' basis and the balance amount will be released on the basis of report of expenditure and physical progress to be submitted by the State Govt.

The State Government have been advised to utilise the above mentioned grant.

within the current financial year.

Opening of Regional office of Bank of India in Kerala

319. SHRI G.M. BANATWALLA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Kerala is reported to be the only State without any administrative office of the Bank of India;

(b) whether Government propose to open a regional office of the Bank in Kerala.

(c) if so, the steps taken in this regard indicating proposed location and the time by which the regional office would be established; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (PROF. MADHU DANAVATE): (a) to (d). The regional offices are opened by the public sector banks keeping in view the level of business, the branch spread in the command area, cost benefit analysis and administrative exigencies. The location of the proposed office is decided by the banks, for which they obtain licence from the Reserve Bank of India. Bank of India has at present only 14 branches in the State of Kerala and, therefore, setting up of a regional office in the

State was not considered a viable proposition by the Bank. The Reserve Bank of India has reported that it has recently given its 'in principle' approval to the Bank of India to the opening of a regional office in the State of Kerala. The office would become operational as and when the bank opens more branches in that State.

Criminal and Civil cases pending in Delhi High Court

320. SHRI VJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of criminal and civil cases pending in Lower, District and High Court in Delhi for over a period of 3 to 5 years, 5 to 7 years, 7 to 10 years and above separately;

(b) whether Government propose to provide legal assistance and facilities to the poor and weaker sections of the society for disposal of their cases expeditiously; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND MINES AND MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI DINESH GOSWANI): (a) The pendency of cases in the Delhi High Court as on 30.6.89 is as follows:

	<i>Civil</i>	<i>Criminal</i>
3 to 5 years	15438	615
5 to 7 years	9427	530
7 to 10 years	8151	736
Over 10 years	7236	337

Similar information in respect of the Lower and District Courts is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.