

The Expert Committee on population projections appointed by the Planning under the chairmanship of Registrar General has estimated that the population by March 1981 would be 672 million. In making this projection, the Committee has assumed a crude birth rate of 36.6 per thousand in 1971-76 and 32.9 per thousand in 1976-81. In view of these assumptions and as the next population census is due in March 1981, the Expert Committee does not propose to revise the population projection at this point of time.

(c) The present Govt. accords high priority to the Family Planning programme and will take proper steps to promote this programme on a voluntary basis through an intensification of motivation and education efforts and adequate provision of services.

Zonal Office in Bihar

*74. SHRIMATI KRISHNA SAHI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether railways have no Zonal Office in Bihar; and

(b) if so, whether Government propose to set up a Zonal Office there?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI C. K. JAFFER SHARIEF): (a) Yes.

(b) No.

दिल्ली और बम्बई के बीच नई रेलगाड़ी का चलाया जाना

*75. श्री एन० के० शेजवलकर : क्या रेल मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) क्या रेल प्रशासन ने दिल्ली और बम्बई के बीच आगरा, ग्वालियर और भोपाल होते हुए एक नई रेलगाड़ी चलाने का आश्वासन अनेक बार दिया है ; और

(ख) यह तीसरी रेलगाड़ी कब तक चलाई जायेगी ?

रेल मंत्रालय में राज्य मंत्री (श्री सी० के० जाफर शरीफ) : (क) जी नहीं।

(ख) मार्गवर्ती खंडों पर लाइन क्षमता का अभाव होने और बम्बई तथा दिल्ली क्षेत्रों में अपर्याप्त टर्मिनल सुविधाओं के कारण आगरा, ग्वालियर, भोपाल के रास्ते दिल्ली और बम्बई के बीच एक और गाड़ी चलाने का अभी कोई प्रस्ताव नहीं है।

Conversion of Rupsa-Bangriposi Narrow Gauge Line

*76. SHRI A. C. DAS: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state whether Government have any proposal of converting the existing narrow gauge railway line between Rupsa and Bangriposi via Baripurda under South Easter Railway in Orissa to broad gauge which is a long standing demand of the local people?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI C. K. JAFFER SHARIEF): A reconnaissance engineering-cum-traffic survey for conversion of Rupsa-Bangriposi narrow gauge line into BG and its extension upto Chakulia/Gurumahisani or some other suitable point is nearing completion. A decision about the conversion of this narrow gauge line into BG will be taken, after the survey report is received, taking into consideration the financial viability of the project as well as the overall resources position.

Maintaining of G.P. Fund Accounts of Government Employees

*77. SHRI A. C. DAS: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware that even after repeated instructions from the Government, the Accountants General of respective Departments are not maintaining G.P. Fund Accounts of Government employees properly;

(b) if so, what steps Government are likely to take in the matter;

(c) whether it is also a fact that the missing credits/discrepancies in the G.P. Fund accounts of certain Gov-

ernment employees are not being adjusted even on collateral evidence; and

(d) if so, how far it will be possible for the Pay and Accounts Officers to reconcile the faulty accounts?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JAGANNATH PAHADIA): (a) After the departmentalisation of accounts which has been implemented in phases from 1-4-1976, there has been a significant improvement in the state of Provident Fund accounts which were transferred to the departmentalised accounts offices in incomplete and unsatisfactory state. This has been possible as a result of vigorous efforts made by the Controllers of Accounts. Presumably reference to Accountants General in the Question is intended to mean Controllers of Accounts in various Ministries/Departments of the Government. The accounts are now almost current and annual statements of accounts for the year 1978-79 have been issued to the subscribers in nearly all the cases.

(b) Since the payment and accounting functions are integrated after departmentalisation, there is no difficulty in proper maintenance of Provident Fund accounts.

(c) Where satisfactory collateral evidence was produced, there has been no difficulty in adjustment of missing credits. In certain cases, however, enquiries have to be made from the Drawing & Disbursing Officers before adjustment. In order to facilitate expeditious adjustment of missing credits, the Pay & Accounts Officers in the Ministries/Departments have been delegated extensive powers to adjust them on the basis of collateral evidence; the Controllers of Accounts have also been delegated powers to make adjustment on the basis of affidavits, wherever collateral evidence is not forthcoming. As a result, a substantial number of missing credits already stand adjusted.

(d) Reconciliation of accounts is a continuing process and the Pay and

Accounts Officers would be able to complete all the accounts on availability of satisfactory collateral evidence.

Export of Jaggery

*78. SHRI P. RAJAGOPAL NAIDU: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND CIVIL SUPPLIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether jaggery is being exported to other countries; and

(b) if so, to which countries?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND STEEL AND MINES AND CIVIL SUPPLIES (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Jaggery is being exported mainly to the Gulf Countries, USA, Canada, Malaysia, Singapore, Nepal, Somalia and U.K.

Setting up of National Bank for Agricultural and Rural Development

*79. SHRI K. MALLANNA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal under the consideration of Government to set up a National Bank for Agricultural and Rural Development;

(b) whether any Reserve Bank Committee was also set up to review arrangements for institutional credit for agricultural and rural development; and

(c) if so, the details regarding the recommendations by this committee in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI R. VENKATARAMAN): (a) to (c). Yes, Sir. On March 30, 1979 the Reserve Bank of India set up a Committee under the Chairmanship of Shri B. Sivaraman to undertake a review of the institutional arrangements for rural credit to bring about the necessary improvements. The Committee submitted an