

**SHRI MOHD. AYUB KHAN:** Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, you know that Rajasthan is the most backward area in the field of railways, specially Jhunjhunu and Sikar. There is no train from there for Delhi during day time in spite of the fact that it is situated at a very short distance from Delhi. Is the hon. Minister going to provide any such facility for Shekhawati or whether any proposal is under consideration to start a day train from Shekhawati to Delhi?

**SHRI MAHABIR PRASAD:** The hon. Minister desires to know whether we are going to formulate any scheme in this connection. We are prepared to make a scheme provided we get the resources from the Planning Commission. It will certainly be considered when we get additional funds from Planning Commission.

**SHRI MADAN PANDEY:** Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, I am happy that the hon. Minister has mentioned about conducting surveys at various places. Many positive steps have been taken after such surveys but complete work is not being done there, like the conversion of Bhatni-Varanasi railway line.

Similarly, at other places also, in spite of requests made by the Ministry of Defence, the work has not started after conducting the survey by the Ministry of Railways. Will the hon. Minister consider this matter?

**SHRI MAHABIR PRASAD:** Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, I agree with the views expressed by the hon. Minister regarding Bhatni-Varanasi line. An amount of Rs. 9 crores was granted for this purpose and the Government is considering it. If the Planning Commission grants the funds, then the Government can expedite the work of gauge conversion

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#### WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

[English]

##### **Housing Scheme of Unit Trust of India**

\*206. **DR. KRUPASINDHU BHOI:** Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the newly approved housing scheme of the Unit Trust of India is proposed to be extended to Orissa; and

(b) if so, the time by which such a scheme would be launched there?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC AFFAIRS IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO): (a) and (b). A statement is given below.

#### STATEMENT

(a) and (b). Unit Trust of India (UTI) proposes to cover all parts of the country under their proposed Housing Scheme. The UTI has not yet decided on the date of launching of the Scheme. UTI proposes to launch the scheme only after all the details are finalised in consultation with the Government.

#### **Financing of Elections by the State**

\*209. **SHRI V.S. VIJAYARAGHAVAN:** Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have considered financing of elections by the State and reduce the election expenses considerably;

(b) if so, the facts thereof; and

(c) the results likely to be achieved therefrom?

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE AND MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI B. SHANKARANAND): (a) to (c). Amongst other proposals for electoral reforms, there is a proposal for state funding of election expenses incurred by a candidate. The proposals in this regard are under consideration.

#### **Rise in Consumer Price Index**

\*210. **SHRI Y.S. MAHAJAN:**  
**SHRI LAKSHMAN MALLICK:**

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the All India Consumer Price Index for working class has been constantly rising;

(b) whether the prices of essential commodities of daily use such as pulses, sugar and edible oils, have risen sharply during the second quarter of the current year;

(c) if so, the specific short-term measures taken or proposed to be taken to check the rise in prices especially of the essential commodities of daily use by common man; and

(d) the long term measures that have been taken to check the inflationary trend?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC AFFAIRS IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO): (a) to (d). The movement of the CPI is subject to fluctuations due to operation of seasonal factors associated with the marketing of agricultural commodities.

The CPI in respect of individual commodities or commodity groups is not computed at the all India level. The commoditywise indices are, however, available in terms of the Wholesale Price Index (WPI). While, the WPI of many essential commodities including edible oils has declined during the second quarter (April-June), the index for pulses and the sugar group has gone up. The specific short-term measures to check the price rise include maintaining releases of foodgrains and other essential items for PDS at adequate levels, augmenting of domestic supplies of foodgrains, edible oils and pulses through imports, enforcing strict fiscal and monetary discipline, close monitoring of price movements and vigorous action against hoarders and profiteers. The long-term measures include encouraging increase in domestic production through increase in irrigation, supply of needed inputs, including credit, strong infrastructure support, and incentives to farmers and other producers.

#### **Excise and Customs Duty on Capital Goods**

\*211. SHRI S. M. GURADDI: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are undertaking a review of the levy of Excise and Customs Duty on Capital goods; and

(b) if so, by when its outcome would be known?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI S.B. CHAVAN): (a) No review of the general rate of excise and customs duties on capital goods is being undertaken by the Government.

(b) Does not arise.

#### **Economy Measures for Government Telephones**

\*213. SHRI JAGANNATH PATNAIK: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether some economy measures have been taken by Government to reduce the number of telephones used by the ministries and departments;

(b) whether Government have also taken steps to reduce the calls of officers from their official residential telephones to a specific number; and

(c) if so, the details of the directions issued in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI S.B. CHAVAN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) A Statement is given below.

#### **STATEMENT**

The following instructions were issued in October, 1987:-

(i) STD facilities should be withdrawn from the residential telephones of all officers below the rank of Joint Secretary to the Government of India or equivalent. The only exception to this may be Private Secretary, Addl.PS to the Ministers