

of Joint Stock Companies as "unpaid and unclaimed dividends";

(b) whether such accumulated moneys lapse back to the companies concerned rather than to the State; and

(c) whether it is proposed to take steps for canalising this amount into the coffers of the State?

THE MINISTER OF COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI RAGHUNATHA REDDY):

(a) There are more than 29,000 companies at work in India. The collection of required data in respect of these companies would involve enormous labour and time. It is, therefore, not possible to give any precise information in this regard for all the companies. However, on the basis of a study conducted in the Department, accumulated amount of unclaimed or unpaid dividends of the top 100 public limited companies works out at Rs. 2.77 crores in the year 1967-68, Rs. 2.35 crores in 1968-69 and Rs. 2.72 crores in 1969-70.

(b) and (c). The Companies Act does not permit Government to appropriate such accumulation. In the case of 'live' companies, the unclaimed dividends are dealt with in accordance with the provisions of the Limitation Act, 1963, Companies Act, 1956 and the Articles of Association of the company concerned.

Inadequacy of Facilities to Check Smuggling in Cochin Customs Department

*898. **SHRI VAYALAR RAVI:** Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that facilities in Cochin Customs Department to check smuggling effectively are inadequate;

(b) whether any proposal has been received to improve the facilities in Cochin Customs Department for effective functioning; and

(c) if so, the reactions of Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI K. R. GANESH): (a) In the Cochin Custom House facilities for checking smuggling are reasonably adequate.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

Air Service to Link up Important Towns in various States

*899. **SHRI B. S. MURTHY:** Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Department of Civil Aviation is planning to provide air services to link up important towns in each state; and

(b) if so, what are the schemes in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION (DR. SAROJINI MAHISHI):

(a) and (b). Indian Airlines hope to provide air services to Jodhpur, Muzaffarpur, Raipur and Nasik during the winter of 1971. Air services will also be provided to Shillong, Calicut and Tirupati when airfields at these places are constructed.

Road Bridge Across the Sea from Mandapam to Rameshwaram

*900. **SHRI DHANDAPANI:** Will the Minister of SHIPPING AND TRANSPORT be pleased to state the target date by which the road bridge across the sea from Mandapam to Rameshwaram is likely to be completed?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS, AND SHIPPING AND TRANSPORT (SHRI RAJ BAHADUR): The project for the construction of a road bridge across the sea from Mandapam to Rameshwaram which is included in the Fourth Five Year Plan is under active consideration of the Government of India.

As this project is still being processed for sanction, it is not, therefore, possible to indicate the target date of its completion. However, it is expected that the construction of the bridge will take about four years after its commencement.

Valuables Belonging to the Nawab of Rampur

3679. **SHRI JYOTIRMOY BOSU:** Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state: