

Taking Over Of Foreign Banks

*148 SHRI R. KADANAPALLI
SHRI SHYAMNANDAN MISHRA

Will the (MINISTER OF FINANCE)
(VITTA MANTRI) be pleased to state

(a) whether the All India Bank Employees Association has demanded taking over of foreign Banks in the country, and

(b) if so, the reaction of Government thereto ?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE
(VITTA MANTRI) (SHRI YLSHWANTI-
RAO CHAVAN) (a) The All India Bank Employees Association has adopted a resolution to this effect

(b) The reasons for not nationalising the foreign banks have been indicated to Parliament on more than one occasion. There is no change in the Government's stand in this regard.

Concessions to Backward Christian Community

†149. SHRI M. K. KRISHNAN
Will the Minister of EDUCATION AND SOCIAL WELFARE (SHIKSHA AUR SAMAJ KALYAN MANTRI) be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government propose to provide to the backward Christian Community those concessions which the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes are enjoying,

(b) whether the Karala Government had recommended for the same to the Government of India; and

(c) if so, when a decision is likely to be taken in this matter ?

THE MINISTER OF EDUCATION & SOCIAL WELFARE AND MINISTER OF DEPARTMENT OF CULTURE (SHIKSHA AUR SAMAJ KALYAN MANTRI AUR SANSKRITI VIBHAG MANTRI) (SHRI SIDDHARTHA SHANKAR RAY) (a) and (c) The whole question as well as the manner of dealing with it are under the consideration of the Government.

(b). Yes, Sir.

Increase In The Shipping Freight Rates On India U K - Europe Route

†150. SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA
Will the MINISTER OF SHIPPING AND TRANSPORT (NAUWAHAN AUR PARIVAHAN MANTRI) be pleased to state

(a) whether Shipping freight rates on India-U K —Europe route have recently been increased once again,

(b) to what extent this will add to the country's foreign exchange bill annually and

(c) the steps, if any, being taken to overcome India's dependence on foreign shippers in the matter of freight rates ?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS, AND SHIPPING AND TRANSPORT (SANSADIA KARYA VATHA NAUWAHAN AUR PARIVAHAN MANTRI) (SHRI RAJ BAHADUR)

(a) No, Sir. But the India-U K / Continent Conference have given notice of their intention to effect a 15% general increase in the freight rates with effect from 16 1971.

(b) It will be difficult to work this out precisely. On an approximate basis the additional outgo of foreign exchange may be about Rs. 3 crores per year, if this increase of 15% comes into force.

(c) Government are taking steps to augment the merchant marine, to increase the percentage share of carriage of cargoes generated by India's foreign trade upto the optimum levels of about 50%. At the same time, the Conferences are being impressed upon, both from within by our Shipping line gaining admission as members thereof, and through these member-lines, and without, through discussions with the shippers and the Govt. to take into account fully the interests of India's export commodities in arriving at freight rates.

National Highway No. 37 in Assam

609. SHRI LILADHAR KOTOKI: Will the Minister of SHIPPING AND TRANSPORT (NAUWAHAN AUR PARIWAHAN MANTRI) be pleased to state the progress made so far in the matter of attaining the prescribed standard in respect of National Highway No. 37 in Assam?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS, AND SHIPPING & TRANSPORT (SANSADIYA KARYA TATHA NAUWAHAN AUR PARIWAHAN MANTRI) (SHRI RAJ BAHADUR): The information is being collected and will be laid on the table of the Sabha in due course.

Inland Water Transport Committee Report

610. SHRI LILADHAR KOTOKI: Will the Minister of SHIPPING AND TRANSPORT (NAUWAHAN AUR PARIWAHAN MANTRI) be please to state:

(a) whether Government have received the report of the Inland Water Transport Committee under the Chairmanship of Shri B. Bhagavati;

(b) if so, the main recommendations thereof; and

(c) the action taken by Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS, AND SHIPPING & TRANSPORT (SANSADIYA KARYA TATHA NAUWAHAN AUR PARIWAHAN MANTRI) (SHRI RAJ BAHADUR): (a) Yes, Sir,

(b) A statement showing the main recommendations of the Committee is laid on the Table of the House. [*Placed in library see No. LT—226 171.*]

(c) The recommendations which concern the State Governments exclusively have been forward to them for implementation. Those which concern both the Central and the State Governments have been referred to the State Governments for comments. Other which concern the Central Government exclusively are being examined by the Ministries concerned. So far as the Schemes recommended for inclusion in the Fourth Plan are concerned, the position is that out of 31 schemes costing Rs. 12.42 crores, 9 schemes costing Rs. 3.15 crores (as against Rs. 5.49 crores estimated by the Committee) have so far been sanctioned. The remaining schemes are still under consideration.

Availability of School Text Books in Delhi

611. SHRI BHOGENDRA JHA: Will the Minister of EDUCATION AND SOCIAL WELFARE (SHIKSHA AUR SAMAJ KALYAN MANTRI) be pleased to state the steps taken to ensure that the various text books prescribed for schools in Delhi are made available to the students when the schools reopen after the summer vacation?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF EDUCATION AND SOCIAL WELFARE (SHIKSHA AUR SAMAJ KALYAN MANTRALAYA MEN UPMANTRI) (SHRI D. P. YADAVA): The Delhi Administration, which prescribes text books for Classes I to VIII for schools in Delhi, have stated that all out efforts are being made to make available the prescribed text books to the students