

Re-Scheduling of External Debts .

***1119. Shri Wishwa Nath Pandey:
Shri R. Barua:**

Will the Minister of Finance be pleased to refer to the reply given to Starred Question No. 74 on the 25th May, 1967 and state:

(a) whether the Aid India Consortium countries have considered the request of the Indian Government regarding the re-scheduling of India's external debts; and

(b) if so, the decision taken in the matter?

The Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Finance (Shri Morarji Desai): (a) and (b). The matter is still under consideration of the aid giving countries. However, Canada has announced the cancellation of the repayment of U.S. \$1.2 million due to her in 1967-68 on account of the 1958 Wheat Loan. She has also agreed to postpone to March 31, 1968 the repayments of principal of the order of U.S. \$0.7 million due from India to Canada. U.K. have agreed to relieve India of debt payments of £11.5 million currently due to them. The decision in respect of the other Consortium Countries is not yet known.

U.S. Peace Corps Personnel

***1120. Shri P. Ramamurti:
Shri A. K. Gopalan:
Shri Nambiar:
Shri C. K. Chakrapani:
Shri K. Anirudhan:
Shri V. Viswanatha Menon:
Shri Vasudevan Nair:**

Will the Minister of Finance be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have taken a decision on the withdrawal of U.S. Peace Corps in Kerala on the State Government's request;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) if not, when the decision is likely to be taken; and

(d) whether Government propose to frame rules regarding the operation of the U.S. Peace Corps personnel in the various States.

The Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Finance (Shri Morarji Desai): (a) to (c). On the 1st June, 1967 the House was informed in reply to question No. 239 that the Government of Kerala had requested the Government of India to arrange for the withdrawal of 28 U.S. Peace Corps Volunteers working in the field of poultry development as the State Government considered that the services of these volunteers were not very useful. Since then the Kerala Government informed the Government of India that 13 of these volunteers whose period of service terminated in 1967 could continue for their full term and the remaining 15 volunteers whose term expired in July, 1968 need not continue in the State. Of the 13 volunteers mentioned above 12 have already left Kerala after completing their normal term and the thirteenth is due to leave in September, 1967. The Government of India are making suitable arrangements to withdraw the remaining 15 volunteers from the State.

The Govt. of Kerala has also asked for the withdrawal of 22 Peace Corps volunteers working in the field of Rural Public Health. The State Govt. has been informed that these volunteers will in any case leave the State in August, 1967 after completing their normal term.

The Govt. of Kerala has also informed the Govt. of India that 19 Peace Corps volunteers serving in the field of Industries may be permitted to serve their full term of assignment till July, 1968.

(d) The Govt. of India has in consultation with the State Governments laid down certain guide lines for the functioning of Peace Corps volunteers in India. Peace Corps volunteers come in response to requests made by the Govt. of India on

the basis of the requirements of the various State Governments. They normally work for a period of 2 years in technical projects and programmes for which their services are required by the State Governments. Their day to day work is subject to the direct supervision and guidance of Indian officials who also send periodical reports on the work of individual volunteers. They are required to obtain the necessary visa for entry into India and also to register themselves under the Foreigners Registration Act on arrival in India.

**Sanitary conditions in South Avenue,
New Delhi**

*1121. **Shri Nitraj Singh Chaudhary:** Will the Minister of Works, Housing and Supply be pleased to state:

(a) whether he is aware of the sanitary and other conditions prevailing in South Avenue M.P. Flats;

(b) whether he is also aware of the condition of outmoded, old and uncomfortable furniture supplied there;

(c) whether he is also aware of the conditions of lawns which at places do not have any grass and the children in that locality have almost no amenities;

(d) whether he is also aware of the indifferent treatment meted to M.Ps. by the Central Public Works Department employees; and

(e) if so, the steps proposed to be taken in this regard?

The Minister of Works, Housing and Supply (Shri Jaganath Rao): (a) Yes, the conditions are not bad but efforts are continually made to improve them.

(b) The furniture was made some years back to the designs and standards then in vogue. Steps are being taken to replace the old furniture subject to the availability of funds.

(c) The condition of lawns and hedges deteriorates, particularly, in the summer because of the acute shortage of unfiltered water. With

the onset of monsoon, horticultural activities are being intensified and the condition of lawns and hedges will be improved.

Certain amenities for children have already been provided. If these are considered inadequate, the residents' committee should request the House Committees of both the Houses of Parliament to recommend further augmentation.

(d) and (e). If any specific case of indifference or discourtesy is brought to the notice of Government, suitable action against the persons concerned will be taken. Steps are being taken to improve the disposal of Members' complaints more expeditiously.

Indian Monetary System

*1122. **Shri Shiva Chandra Jha:** Will the Minister of Finance be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Indian monetary system is still linked with certain amount of compulsory gold reserves;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) how much gold reserves it had under the Three Plans and how much it would have under the present inflationary situation during the Fourth Plan period?

The Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Finance (Shri Morarji Desai): (a) The Reserve Bank of India Act prescribes that the total holdings of gold coin and bullion and foreign securities held in the Issue Department of the Reserve Bank should not be less than Rs. 200 crores and that of this, the value of gold coin and bullion should not be less than Rs. 115 crores.

(b) A certain minimum reserve of gold is considered prudent as a provision for extreme contingencies.

(c) At the beginning of the First Plan, the value of gold coin and bullion held in the Issue Department