

नानक सागर बांध में दरारें

*402. श्री रामावतार शर्मा :

डा० कूर्य प्रकाश पुरी :

श्री प्रकाशबोर शास्त्री :

श्री अटल बिहारी वाजपेयी :

क्या सिंचाई और बिद्युत् मन्त्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि:

(क) क्या नानक सागर बांध में दरारों के बारे में जांच पूरी हो गई है;

(ख) यदि हां, तो उमका क्या परिणाम निकला; और

(ग) उस पर क्या कार्यवाही की गई है तथा दोषी व्यक्तियों के विरुद्ध क्या कार्यवाही की गई है ?

सिंचाई तथा बिद्युत् मन्त्री (डा० कु० ल० राव) : (क) अभी नहीं।

(ख) और (ग) प्रश्न नहीं उठता।

COST OF PRODUCTION OF OIL

*403. SHRI YOGENDRA SHARMA :

Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS be pleased to state:

(a) the steps taken to bring down the cost of production at the three public sector oil refineries;

(b) whether the cost in 1966 and 1967 is now comparable with the cost of production in private sector refineries; and

(c) if not, whether Government propose to refer the issue to a committee of oil experts ?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS AND SOCIAL WELFARE (SHRI ASHOKA MEHTA): (a) Cost reduction is being achieved by:—

(i) raising the throughputs to designed capacities;

(ii) reduction in the cost of chemicals consumed during operations;

(iii) reduction in inventories;

(iv) reduction of surplus staff; and

(v) strict budgetary control over all items of expenditure.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

ECONOMY DRIVE

404. SHRI LILADHAR KOTOKI:
SHRI BENI SHANKER SHARMA;
SHRI SHRI GOPAL SABOO:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the measures taken to effect economy in the administrative and other spheres promised by him in the course of his last budget speech and the result thereof;

(b) whether Government have been able to evolve and prepare any plan for the next year, according to which sufficient economy could be effected on the expenditure side; and

(c) If so, the broad details thereof ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JAGANNATH PAHADIA): (a) A special post-budget review was conducted which resulted in locating economies of the order of Rs. 23 crores. Certain other measures intended to restrain administrative expenditure under Travelling allowance, contingencies etc. were introduced and the economy measures introduced earlier were continued. The total picture of the economies involved in these measures will be found reflected in the Revised Estimates for 1967-68 placed on the Table of the House. These economies, have, however, been largely off-set by increased dearness allowance granted to Government employees.

(b) and (c). The Budget Estimates 1968-69 which have been placed on the Table of the House have been drawn up after a close scrutiny of the possible areas of economy. Economy measures are, however, a continuing process and further areas where economy is feasible will continue to be explored.

GOLD SEIZED FROM B.O.A.C. PLANE

*405. SHRI SITARAM KESRI:
SHRI MADHU LIMAYE :
SHRI JUGAL MONDAL:
SHRI S. K. TAPURIAH:
SHRI K. P. SINGH DEO:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether any decision has been taken to return to the BOAC nearly 32 maunds of gold that was seized from one of its planes in October, 1967;

(b) if so, the grounds on which the decision has been taken; and

(c) if not, how the matter stands at present ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE, (SHRI K. C. PANT) (a) to (c). The seized gold weighing 1218.6 kgs. has been confiscated under the Customs Act, 1962, by the Collector of Customs & Central Excise, New Delhi. However, considering that the gold was in transit through India and was meant for another country, the Collector has permitted the gold to be redeemed on payment of a fine of Rs. 25,25,000/- in lieu of confiscation, for release to the lawful owners on production of a written permission from the Reserve Bank of India.

FINANCIAL CRISIS IN BIHAR

*406. SHRI CHENGALRAYA

NAIDU: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the total amount of loan to be paid by the Bihar Government to the Central Government during the current financial year;

(b) whether it is a fact that the Bihar Government are facing financial crisis and have informed the Central Government their incapability to repay the debt and asked for exemption from repayment for the time being; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI K. C. PANT): (a) Rs. 43 crores approximately.

(b) and (c). The Bihar Government had requested in June last year that in view of their financial difficulties they may be given ways and means advance to cover the interest payments and loan repayments due to the Centre till October 1967. This was not agreed to as it would have practically amounted to a moratorium on the Centre's dues.

PRICE OF PETROL

*407. SHRI S. M. BANERJEE: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS be pleased to state:

(a) the steps taken to reduce the price of petrol in the country;

(b) whether foreign oil companies have not agreed to any reduction; and

(c) if so, the action taken by Government in the matter ?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS AND SOCIAL WELFARE: (SHRI ASHOKA MEHTA):

(a) The basic ceiling selling prices of petrol and other bulk refined petroleum products ex-oil companies' storage points are determined on the basis of import parity on the lines of the formula referred to in the Government of India Resolution No. 101 (26)/65-PPD dated 1-2-66 which will apply till 31-12-68 and for such further period or periods as Government may decide. During the currency of this price formula, the question of reducing the price of petrol does not arise. On the contrary the levy of additional Excise duties has increased the price to the consumer.

(b) The question does not arise, as no such proposal was made to the oil companies

(c) Does not arise.

ALLOTMENT OF FUNDS TO PUBLIC SECTOR UNDERTAKINGS

*408. SHRI YAJNA DATT SHARMA: SHRI R. S. VIDYARTHI:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to refer to the reply given to Starred Question No. 836 on the 21st Dec., 1967 and state:

(a) whether Government have since taken any final decision regarding the rationalisation of the basis on which fresh funds will be allotted to old and new public sector undertakings; and

(b) if so, the broad details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI K. C. PANT): (a) and (b). Certain recommendations of the Administrative Reforms Commission relating to loan/equity ratio, cash credit arrangements and guarantees for Public Enterprises, etc., are under consideration of the Government. In the meantime, however, some measures have been taken to simplify the procedure for release of capital funds to the Public Enterprises.