

that India needed non-project aid in the order of \$ 1,000 million from Consortium members including IDA. Members also agreed, subject to Parliamentary approval in some cases, to provide \$100 million of this sum in the form of debt relief and to consider favourably a similar amount of debt relief for the following two years.

Development of Projects in Kerala

- *21. SHRIMATI SUSEELA
GOPALAN:
SHRI A. K. GOPALAN:
SHRI VISWANATHA MENON:

Will the Minister of IRRIGATION AND POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Kerala Government have asked Rs. 50,000 each for the construction work of Kallada, Kuttiyadi, and Pazhassi Projects in Kerala;

(b) if so, whether Government have sanctioned the sums; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF IRRIGATION AND POWER (DR. K. L. RAO): (a) A request was received from the Government of Kerala in May 1968 asking for additional financial assistance of Rs. 2.25 crores for five Projects during 1968-69, including Rs. 50 lakhs each for Kallada, Kuttiyadi and Pazhassi projects.

(b) and (c). The matter is under consideration.

Finance Minister's discussion with representatives of Banks

*22. SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether he had discussions with the representatives of the Indian Banks' Association in Delhi last month regarding the practical implications of the Banking Laws (Amendment) Bill, 1968;

(b) if so, the difficulties which the bankers submitted to him and whether they asked for any assurances; and

(c) whether the outcome of the talks was satisfactory to both sides?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI K. C. PANT): (a) The Deputy Prime Minister met some of the newly appointed Chairmen of Indian banks as also the Chairmen of the Advisory Boards and the Chief Executives of foreign banks at New Delhi on the 8th June, 1968.

(b) The discussions related to the various aspects of social control over commercial banks and the action already taken or proposed to be taken by the banks to implement Government's policy in this regard. No specific assurances were sought for by the bankers.

(c) Discussions were helpful.

Smuggling of Counterfeit Indian Currency

- *23. SHRI H. AJMAL KHAN:
SHRI MEETHA LAL MEENA:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to a press report published in the "Hindustan Times" of 10th June, 1968 under the caption "China-made fake Indian notes found";

(b) whether it is also a fact that counterfeit Indian currency after being smuggled into India from China is distributed amongst anti-social and anti-national forces for subversive activities; and

(c) the reaction of Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI K. C. PANT): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c). There is no conclusive evidence to support this allegation.

Gold Price

*24. SHRI R. K. AMIN: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether as a result of the recent disturbances in France, price of gold has reached the highest peak;

(b) whether rise in price of gold in France has in any way affected the Indian market; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI K. C. PANT): (a) As a result of recent disturbances and isolation of the French market from other world gold markets due to imposition of exchange control, the price of gold in Paris rose steeply, reaching a peak of \$ 45.96 per ounce on 11th June, 1968.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

Cochin Customs House

*25 SHRI E. K. NAYANAR: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to refer to the reply given to Unstarred Question No. 7998 on the 22nd April, 1968 and state:

(a) whether the special police establishment has since completed the investigations in the case of an Assistant Collector of Customs, Cochin who was allowed to export curios and handicrafts of the value of Rs. 20,000/- as baggage;

(b) if so, the details of the findings with action taken thereon; and

(c) if not, when the investigation is likely to be completed and reasons for delay?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI K. C. PANT): (a) No, Sir. The case is still under investigation by the Special Police Establishment.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) The investigations are being conducted in several parts of the country and a large number of documents and witnesses have to be examined. Steps are, however, being taken to get the investigation completed as quickly as possible.

Counterfeit Indian Currency

*28. SHRI SAMAR GUHA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a large number of counterfeit Indian currency of different denominations has been seized in the Bangaon area, Canning area and other Indo-Pak border regions of West Bengal and Assam and near Bihar-Nepal border;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether these counterfeit Indian currencies have been circulated by China with a view to create serious problems in the money markets of India; and

(d) if so, the steps taken by Government to counteract the mischievous move undertaken by the Chinese?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI K. C. PANT): (a) and (b) A statement showing the seizure of counterfeit notes in the Indo-Pak border regions of West Bengal and Assam and near Bihar-Nepal border during the period June 1967-June 1968 is laid on the Table of the House. (Placed in Library. See No. LT-1336 68.

(c) and (d). There has so far been no evidence to show that these notes were circulated by China.