

Offering prayers in mosques

3803. SHRI SHAMIM AHMAD SIDDIQUI: Will the Minister of WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Central Wakf Council at its meeting held on the 27th October, 1987 discussed the issue of offering of prayers in the mosques under protection of Archaeological Survey of India;

(b) if so, what decision was taken at the meeting;

(c) whether Government have appointed any Committee to go into the issue of offering prayers in protected monuments;

(d) if so, what is the present stage of consideration of the issue in the Committee; and

(e) what action Government have taken to get the decision of the said Committee expedited?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WELFARE (DR. RAJENDRA KUMARI BAJPAI): (a) and (b) The question of offering of prayers in mosques under protection of Archaeological Survey of India was raised in the Central Wakf Council meeting held on 27th October 1987. It was explained that the matter was the concern of the Ministry of Human Resource Development and it was for them to take a view in the matter which involved protection of our national heritage. It was, therefore, urged that the point should not be pressed in the Council's meeting.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) and (e) Do not arise.

Reorganisation of Ministry of Welfare

3804. SHRI SHAMIM AHMAD SIDDIQUI: Will the Minister of WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) when the Ministry of Welfare was re-organised;

(b) what were the reasons for its re-organisation;

(c) what are the names of various units attached to the Ministry of Welfare which were formerly parts of other Ministries;

(d) what was the strength of each transferred unit on the day of transfer, break-up of Gazetted, non-gazetted, cadre and ex-cadre posts of each unit separately; and

(e) what is the present working strength of each transferred unit?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF WELFARE (SHRI GIRIDHAR GOMANGO): (a) The Ministry of Welfare came into being on the 25th Sept., 1985;

(b) Allocation of work between Ministries and Departments of Government of India is made under Article 77 of the Constitution for more convenient transaction of Government business;

(c) While the work relating to Social Welfare and Social Defence came to the Ministry of Welfare as the successor Ministry, the work relating to the welfare of the Scheduled Castes, the Scheduled Tribes and the Minorities was transferred from the Ministry of Home Affairs and that relating to the WAKF from the Ministry of Law;

(d) and (e) Information is given in the Statements attached. [See Appendix CXLIV, Annexure No. 160]

105 per cent value secured by SAIL against orders

3805. SHRI S. S. AHLUWALIA: Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state:

(a) what is the rationale behind securing 105 per cent value by the SAIL from buyers against delivery orders for any product;

(b) whether there is any specified time schedule for refunding this pre-receipted additional 5 per cent amount to the buyers;

(c) what is the total amount lying accumulated with the SAIL on this account;

(d) whether the payees are given due interests for their deposits; if so, how much and if not, the reasons therefor; and

(e) the manner in which the accumulated 5 per cent additional deposits from buyers are being utilised by the SAIL?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI M. L. FOTEDAR): (a) Iron and steel materials are supplied by SAIL either directly from the plants or through its stockyards. As it is not practicable to predetermine the exact weight of the material to be supplied, it is necessary to obtain an advance deposit to cover marginal excess deliveries, if any. To take care of such excess deliveries SAIL collects about 105 per cent of the value of materials against every delivery order. However, the customers are also given the option to give a standing bank guarantee or a deposit of Rs. 10,000/- in which case deposits of the extra 5 per cent advance is not required.

(b) Yes, Sir. A specific time schedule has been laid down by SAIL for refund of additional 5 per cent collected from the buyers. This varies from payment made within one month upto 3 months. Since the physical delivery of material is from the stockyard and the financial transactions and accounting are conducted in Branch offices, it is not possible to refund the extra amount at the time of delivery itself.

(c) No separate account is maintained for the extra amount of 5 per cent collected and, therefore, it is not possible to furnish the amount involved.

(d) Payments collected from the

buyers are of the nature of security deposits. As per the past practice, no interest is paid on them.

(e) The additional 5 per cent is held in the bank pending refund to customers.

SAARC Food Security Reserve

3806. SHR S S. AHULUWALIA: Will the Minister of FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES be pleased to refer to the answer to Unstarred Question 3215 given in the Rajya Sabha on the 31st August 1987 and state by when a SAARC Food Security Reserves of 200,000 tonnes of foodgrains is likely to be established?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND THE MINISTER OF FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES (SHRI H. K. L. BHAGAT): An Agreement for establishing SAARC Food Security Reserve with a size of 200,000 tonnes of wheat and rice was signed on 4/11/1987 by the SAARC member countries at the 3rd Summit held recently in Kathmandu. The Agreement will enter into force on a date to be determined by the SAARC Council of Ministers, provided that the member countries have collectively earmarked at least 125,000 tons of foodgrains on that date for the purpose of the Agreement.

Allotment of land for primary school in Vasant Vihar, New Delhi

3807. SHRI S. S. AHLUWALIA: Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether any land has been allotted by the Land and Development Office for the Middle School in Vasant Vihar CPWD complex, New Delhi, if so, the date of a allotment of land;

(b) whether there are any other requests of various public associations sansthans for allotment of land to M.C. D. for opening of Primary School in that area, which are lying pending with the Land and Development