

at Nagpur. Category I runway lighting system and 3 Bar Visual Approach Slope Indicator System (VASI) have been provided at the four international airports.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) Government is already seized of the matter and is trying to reach a satisfactory solution of this problem of slum congestion in consultation with the Govt of Maharashtra.

In the Sixth Five Year Plan it is proposed to provide Instrument Landing System of the latest technology at Ahmedabad, Lucknow, Gauhati (replacement) and Delhi (reciprocal). Visual Landing devices like VASI, Approach Lighting System, High Intensity runway Lights have been planned for some of the major aerodromes in the Sixth Five Year Plan.

Sales Tax on eatables and drinks served in hotels

117. SHRI LAKHAN SINGH: SHRI LAL K. ADVANI;

Will the Minister Of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have since received a copy of the Andhra Pradesh High Court's Judgment on 19th September, 1980 to the effect that the levy of sales-tax on eatables and drinks served in hotels etc. was illegal;

(b) whether a final decision has since been taken in the matter; and

(c) if so, what are the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI SAWAISINGH SISODIA), (a) to (c) Levy of sales tax on sales or purchases taking place within a State is a State subject of taxation under Entry 54 in List II of the Seventh Schedule to the Constitution. The administration of Central Sales Tax Act, 1956 has also been entrusted by law to the State authorities. A copy

of the judgment of 19th September, 1980 has been obtained from the Government of Andhra Pradesh. The State Government have reported that they have decided to take the matter in appeal to the Supreme Court and the High Court has also granted to the State leave to prefer an appeal before the Supreme Court against the judgment. Necessary action to file the appeal in the Supreme Court is being taken by the State Government. The State Government have also stated that in view of this, no instructions have been issued by them in regard to the course of action to be taken by the catering services run by various agencies in the State.

Manufacture of Vanaspathi by cooperative mills

118. SHRI MURLIDHAR CHANDRAKANT BHANDARE: SHRIMATI AMARJIT KAUR: SHRI NARSINGH NARAIN PANDEY;

Will the Minister of CIVIL SUPPLIES be pleased to state whether Government propose to restrict the manufacture of Vanaspathi to cooperative mills in future as has been done in case of sugar, while issuing new licences?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL SUPPLIES (SHRI BRAJAMOHAN MOHANTY): No, Sir.

Steps for fair distribution of essential commodities to poorer sections of the society

119. SHRI MURLIDHAR CHANDRAKANT BHANDARE: SHRIMATI AMARJIT KAUR:

Will the Minister of CIVIL SUPPLIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that the essential commodities made available at the fair price shops for distribution amongst the poorer sections of the society are finding their way into the black market;

b) if so, whether Government propose to attach Advisory Committees of the local population to the fair price shops with a view to checking this malpractice; and

(c) if the answer to part (b) above be in the negative, what other steps Government are contemplating to ensure fair distribution of the essential commodities to the poorer sections of the society?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL SUPPLIES (SHRI BRAJAMOHAN MOHANTY): (a) to (c) The supply of essential commodities through the public distribution system is the responsibility of the State Governments. The State Governments are required to ensure that commodities supplied through the system are made available to the consumers. With a view to ensuring proper functioning of the public distribution system, the Central Government has advised the State Governments to constitute Consumers' Advisory Committees at various levels of administration.

Movement in favour of public distribution system

120. SHRI MURLIDHAR CHANDRAKANT BHANDARE; SHRIMATI AMARJIT KAUR:

Will the Minister of CIVIL SUPPLIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the private manufacturers and traders are sabotaging the proposed public distribution system to be started in the States;

(b) if so, what steps Government are taking to counteract this evil by nipping it in the bud; and

(c) if not, whether Government are contemplating to take the cooperation of general public for creating a public opinion in favour of the public distribution system and taking help of the non-political voluntary agencies in creating a movement in favour of public distribution system?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL SUPPLIES (SHRI BRAJAMOHAN MOHANTY): (a) to (c) The public distribution system has been functioning in the country for over three decades now. It is being strengthened and streamlined so that it can effectively fulfil the larger task now developed upon it. The importance of the system has been highlighted in the draft Sixth Plan. All efforts for creating a strong public opinion in regard to its importance are being made and all efforts in this direction from all quarters are welcome. A strong public opinion is expected to be an effective guarantee against any likely attempt at undermining the system.

Illegal Commissions charged by Rural Banks

121. SHRI MURLIDHAR CHANDRAKANT BHANDARE; SHRIMATI AMARJIT KAUR:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that the branches of the Nationalised Banks in Rural Areas are charging illegal commission while advancing loans to the poorer sections of the Society;

(b) if so, what steps Government have taken to check this malpractice; and

(c) if the answer to part (a) above be in the negative, what steps have been taken to start some feed-back process in this matter and whether it is proposed to associate the Local Students and Teachers as informants for this purpose?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI MAGANBHAI BAROT): (a) to (c) All the nationalised banks have accepted the jurisdiction of the Central Vigilance Commission. Under the extant vigilance instructions, acceptance