

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY): (a) to (c) State Bank of India, Indian Bank and Indian Overseas Bank have been permitted by the Reserve Bank of India to open five branches in Sri Lanka out of which three will be in rural areas.

Defence forces personnel missing since the 1971 war with Pakistan

1764. SHRI JAGDISH PRASAD MATHUR;
SHRI LAKHAN SINGH;

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that relatives of some of the personnel of the India's defence forces who have not yet been located since the 1971 war with Pakistan, have been approaching the Government to establish death or otherwise of their relatives; and

(b) if so, what steps have been taken by Government to satisfy the relatives about the death of the defence personnel as is required under the Geneva Convention.

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI K. P. SINGH DEO): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Reports appearing off and on in the Press as well as some evidence produced by the relatives of these personnel indicate that some of the Defence personnel, who are missing since the 1971 conflict, may still be detained in Pakistani jails. But in a statement issued by the Pakistan Embassy in New Delhi on January 23, 1982, they have denied the existence of such personnel in Pakistan. The Government of India repeatedly took up this issue with the Government of Pakistan.

It was once again taken up during the recent visit of the Pakistan Foreign Minister, Mr. Agha Shahi to New Delhi from January 29 to

February 1, 1982. The Pakistan Government reiterated its position that there were no such defence personnel in Pakistan. However, on India's insistence, the Pakistan Delegation agreed to make fresh efforts to locate such personnel.

SBI loan to Patson Travelling Agency

1765. SHRI HARI SHANKAR BHABHRA;
SHRI JAGDISH PRASAD MATHUR;

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) what is the amount of loan that was due to the State Bank of India from the Patson Travelling Agency operating in the United States of America, based in Chicago that closed down in December, 1981;

(b) what amount has since been recovered and what steps the bank is taking to recover the arrears; and

(c) whether it is a fact that calling the loans by the bank from the company at its critical time was the primary reason for its closure? —

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY): (a) to (c) The Hon'ble Members have sought information in respect of a constituent of the State Bank of India. According to the Practices and usages customary among banks and the provisions of the Statutes governing the public sector banks, the affairs of individual constituents of a bank cannot be divulged.

Indira Pratishthan Trust

1766. SHRI JAGDISH PRASAD MATHUR;
SHRI HARI SHANKAR BHABHRA;

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state the details of the action which the Central Government are contemplating to take in view