

crores as against the total assets of Rs. 85.74 crores.

(b) The liability to the certificate holders as disclosed in the aforesaid balance sheet comes to Rs. 64.03 crores. As per the foot note appended to the said balance sheet, fixed deposit receipts and Government securities of equivalent amount have been lodged with the United Bank of India. It is not possible to say that the liabilities to the certificate holders are fully covered in the sense that they are secured by fixed deposits and Government securities.

(c) The Reserve Bank of India has in the public interest directed the company not to withdraw the deposit certificates and Government securities lodged with that bank except with the Reserve Bank's permission and for repayment to the certificate holders.

(d) The Reserve Bank of India would consider the request of the Company for withdrawal on merits if the withdrawal is for making repayment to the certificate holders.

Shortage of palm oil and rapeseed oil in the Fair Price Shops of Delhi

187. SHRI MANUBHAI PATEL: Will the Minister of CIVIL SUPPLIES be pleased to state;

(a) whether Government are aware of acute shortage of palm oil and rape-seed oil in the Fair Price Shops in Delhi, which has tremendously hit the poor and economically weaker sections of the society as they are forced to purchase vanaspati and vegetable oils from the open market at much higher price;

(b) if so, what are the reasons therefor; and

(c) what steps Government have taken to ensure immediate and adequate supply of palm oil and rapeseed oil in all the Fair Price Shops of Delhi?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL SUPPLIES (SHRI BRAJA MOHAN MOHANTY): (a) No shortage of Palm Oil and rapeseed oil has been reported at the fair price shops in Delhi.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Adequate supplies of palm oil and rapeseed oil are being maintained at all these Fair Price Shops by the Delhi Administration, which is getting regular allocation from the Central Government for this purpose.

Daily wages of tourist guides

188. DR. (SHRIMATI) NAJMA HEPTULLA: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the daily wages of tourist guides were last increased nominally about four years ago;

(b) whether it is also a fact that the cost of living has since increased considerably;

(c) if so, whether Government propose to increase the daily wages and conveyance allowance of tourist guides proportionately; and

(d) if so, by when and if not what are the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI A. P. SHARMA): (a) to (d) The guides approved by the Government are not paid on daily wage basis, but on the basis of assignments given. A statement giving guide fees is attached. As will be seen therefrom the guide fees were revised in 1977. The fees have been increased in the range of 40 per cent to 80 per cent.

Transport charges are provided to a guide if the guide is required to report before 0700 hours or finish the assignment after 213 hours as per the details given in the attached statement. In view of the increase given in the fees in 1977, there is no proposal at present to further revision of the same.