

of the national institutes to go into the entire gamut of expenditure—developmental as well as non-developmental. No such decision has been taken. The news item was baseless.

b) to d) Do not arise.

Public distribution system

222. SHRIMATI HAMIDA HABI-
BULLAH: SHRI SANTOSH
KUMAR SAHU:

Will the Minister of CIVIL SUPPLIES be pleased to refer to the answer to Starred Question 30 given in the Rajya Sabha on, the 10th June, 1980 and state the details of the steps taken and the progress made so far to strengthen and streamline the public distribution system for consumer goods in the country?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL SUPPLIES (SHRI BRAJA MOHAN MOHANTY): The functioning of the public distribution system was recently reviewed with the Chief Minister»Ministers of Civil Supplies of the various State Governments. The number of retail outlets under the public distribution system has gone up by 31,000¹ since January, 1980.

To improve supply of essential commodities, the concerned Ministries at the Union Government level have also taken necessary steps to monitor availability of essential commodities and initiated necessary corrective measures. The enforcement of the Essential Commodities Act and similar other enactments are being tightened.

Fair price shops are being subjected to periodic checks.

Trade agreement between India and Yugoslavia

223. SHRI SWAMI DINESH
CHANDRA:
SHRIMATI SUSHILA SHANKAR
ADIVAREKAR:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether any agreement for augmenting economic and trade relations between India and Yugoslavia was reached during the visit of Yugoslav President in September this year;

(b) if so, what are the details in this regard; and

(c) the quantum of trade between the two countries that is likely to increase as a result thereof⁰

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND STEEL AND MINES (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) to (c) Yugoslav President did not visit India in September, 1980. However, President of Yugoslav Federal Executive Council, H. E. Veselin Djuranvic came to India and during the course of his visit a long-term agreement on economic, industrial, trade, scientific and technical cooperation between India and Yugoslavia was concluded. The Agreement envisages further expansion and strengthening of bilateral cooperation between the two countries in diverse fields, including trade. As a result of the agreement, trade between the two countries is likely to increase but it is difficult to quantify the likely increase at this stage.

Loans from World Bank

224. SHRI SHIVA CHANDRA JHA:
SHRI ROBIN KAKATI:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have "asked the World Bank for further loans for the economic development of the country;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof; and

(c) if the answer to part (a) above be in the negative, what is the total amount of loan which India has taken so far and how much has been paid back and with what interest and how much India still owes to the World Bank?