

of vulnerable sectors along the coast and the land frontiers. Additional launches and vehicles are being provided from time to time for effective interception, prevention etc. Some senior officers of the rank of Collectors of Customs, Additional Collectors of Customs and Assistant Collectors of Customs have been posted in vulnerable areas to look after anti-smuggling work exclusively. Customs Act, 1962 has been amended making additional provisions to take special measures for the purpose of checking illegal import and export of certain commodities and facilitating their detention. The position is kept under constant review.

CONFERENCE OF TAX EXECUTIVES

1198. SHRIMATI PRATIBHA SINGH: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether a conference of Tax Executives was held in the last week of July, 1972 in New Delhi;

(b) if so, what specific observations and suggestions were made at the conference to reduce economic disparities, end concentration of wealth and to unearth black money; and

(c) what action Government propose to take in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI K. R. GANESH): (a) Yes.

(b) No communication regarding specific observations and suggestions made at the conference in question has been received by the Government.

(c) The views expressed at the conference will be taken note of, when received.

'OWN YOUR HOUSE SCHEME'

1199. SHRI PRANAB KUMAR MUKHERJEE:

SHRI N. R. CHOUDHURY:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of district and sub-divisional towns which are covered by the 'Own Your House Scheme' of the Life Insurance Corporation;

(b) how far the scheme has succeeded in helping the lower income group and

(c) whether the L.I.C. is considering liberalisation of the terms of the scheme to cover the lowest strata of the society within the ambit of the scheme?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI Y. B. CHAVAN): (a) The LIC's 'Own Your Home' Scheme is in operation in 488 centres, including district towns, sub-divisional towns and headquarters of Union Territories.

(b) and (c). The minimum amount of loan available to a policyholder under the Scheme is Rs. 10,000 for a new construction and Rs. 7,500 for extension to an existing house. These comparatively low limits help the Lower Income Group also.

EXPANSION OF MONOPOLIES COMMISSION

1200. SHRI N. G. GORAY: Will the Minister of COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to refer to the reply to Starred Question No. 99 given in the Rajya Sabha on the 16th May, 1972 and state: