

THE MINISTER OF REVENUE AND -
EXPENDITURE (SHRI K.R. GANESH) :

(a) to (d) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House as early as possible.

ESCAPE OF PAKISTANI PRISONERS OF WAR

826. SHRIMATI SAVITA BEHEN : Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of Pakistani POWs who escaped from their detention camps so far;

(b) how many out of these Pakistani POWs have been recaptured; and

(c) whether any security measures have been taken by Government; if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI JAGJIVAN RAM) : (a) Seven.

(b) Five.

(c) Necessary action has been taken to tighten the security measures further.

CREDIT BY NATIONALISED BANKS TO FARMERS

827. SHRIMATI SAVITA BEHEN : Will the minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether attention of Government has been invited to the news-item appearing in the Navbharat Times, dated the 18th May, 1972 under the caption "Bank rashtriya-karan ke bavajud kisan khali hath rah gaya";

(b) whether any enquiry has been made into the said allegation; and

(c) the effective steps taken or proposed to be taken by simplify the procedure for granting loans by nationalised banks to the farmers ?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI Y.B. CHAVAN) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The grievances are being enquired into.

(c) Since nationalisation, the public sector banks have already taken steps both to simplify their loan application forms and rationalise their lending procedures. The matter is under constant review both by the Reserve Bank of India and the Banking Department.

All the public sector banks have come out with publicity brochures, explaining in simple language to illiterate farmers how agricultural loans may be obtained for different productive purposes and what the borrowing farmer has to do to secure such loans. The banks have also delegated more powers to the branch agents for sanctioning agricultural advances, especially to the small farmers. They are appointing more field staff for visiting farmlands of borrowers, appraising their loan applications with due regard to their cropping programme and practices and supervising the end-use of the advances. No mortgage of land is insisted upon by the public sector banks for making short-term crop advances upto prescribed ceiling. The State Governments are being urged to take up necessary administrative measures and introduce legislation as advised by the Expert group on State Enactments having a bearing on Commercial Banks' Lending to Agriculture so that the banks are in a position to ensure smoother flow of credit to Agriculture.

SUPPER CLUB OF ASHOKA HOTEL

828. SHRI HABIB TANVIR : Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that the Supper club of the Ashoka Hotel, New Delhi has been presenting Indian Folk and classical dances during dinner time every Tuesday; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION (DR. KARAN SINGH) :

(a) Ashoka Hotel has been presenting Folk and Mughal Court dances (light Kathak) at Supper Club on Tuesdays.

(b) The details are as follow:

29.2.72 7.3.72 14.3.72	} Mughal Court dances (light Kathak)	by Shri Durgalal Devilal Troupe
21.3.72	Mughal Court dances (light Kathak)	by Harsha Lata
28.3.72 4.4.72 11.4.72 18.4.72	} Santhal, Naga, Poongoholom and Tarja dances.	by Shri Chandrakant Singh & Troupe
25.4.72	Holi & Hichki (Haryana Folk dance) & Mughal Court dance (light Kathak)	by Shri Satya Narayan & Troupe
2.9.16 and 23.5. 1972	} Santhal, Naga & Tarsa Folk dance	by Shri Chandrakantsingh & Troupe

Classical dances are presented in the Convention Hall from time to time, and have been widely appreciated.

SHIFTING OF OFFICE OF CHIEF ENGINEER

M.E. S. FROM NAGPUR

829. MISS. SAROJ PURUSHOTTAM KHAPARDE : Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that the office of the Chief Engineer, Central Zone, M.E.S. is being shifted from Nagpur; and

(b) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI JAGJIVAN RAM) : (a) and (b) It was decided in 1970 to shift the office of the Chief Engineer, Central Zone from Nagpur, because the work-load at Jabalpur was higher than at Nagpur and Jabalpur was also centrally located with reference to the jurisdiction of the Chief Engineer. The shift was considered desirable in the interest of functional efficiency. In accordance with this decision, an advance party has already moved to Jabalpur. Further move has, however, been stayed and the matter is being re-examined.

REOPENING OF INDUSTRIES IN WEST BENGAL

364. SHRI CHANDRAMAULI JUGARLA-MUDI : SHRI LOKANATH MISRA : SHRI SUNDAR MANI PATEL : SHRI K. C. PANDA :

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) the number of closed industrial units reopened in various parts of West Bengal with the help and initiative of the Industrial Reconstruction Corporation of India;

(b) the extent of financial involvement of public exchequer for reopening these industrial units; and

(c) the basis on which these units have been reopened under public finances ?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI Y. B. CHAVAN) : (a) and (b) Till 15th May, 1972, 15 closed industrial units in West Bengal have reopened their factories with the assistance of Rs. 260.55 lakhs sanctioned by the Industrial Reconstruction Corporation of India. In addition the Corporation has sanctioned assistance of Rs. 181.37 lakhs to 10 other closed industrial units in West

†[Transferred from the 28th May, 1972.]