

THE MINISTER OF PLANNING (SHRI ASOKA MEHTA) : (a) Yes. An evaluation study conducted towards the end of 1964 by the Programme Evaluation Organisation of the Planning Commission has revealed that a number of the consumer cooperative stores were suffering from inadequacy of working finance and lack of accommodation from the institutional credit agencies and, as a result, had not been able to sufficiently diversify their business.

(b) Yes. Various aspects of the problem have been examined by the Government of India in consultation with the Reserve Bank of India and it has been decided to introduce a basic change in the *modus operandi* for loans and advances to wholesale consumer co-operatives and their federations. According to this decision made late in 1965, stores will now be required to find only up to 10 per cent of the value of goods to be procured from their own resources while the balance will be made available to them from the banks as hypothecation credit. Twenty-five per cent of all such advances made by the banks to the stores will be guaranteed by the Government of India in terms of a Guarantee Scheme which will enable the stores to procure goods at a time to the extent of ten times their own disposable resources.

RAJASTHAN CANAL

*550 SHRI RAM SINGH : Will the Minister of IRRIGATION AND POWER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the decision to transfer the control of the Rajasthan Canal to a Central body has since been taken by Government;

(b) if so, whether the central body has been constituted; and

(c) if the answer to part (b) above be in the affirmative, what are the names of the persons comprising the body ?

THE MINISTER OF IRRIGATION AND POWER (SHRI FAKHRUDDIN ALI AHMED) : (a) No, Sir. The matter is still under consideration.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

REIMBURSEMENT OF TUITION FEES OF GOVERNMENT EMPLOYEES

♦551. SHRI D. THENGARI: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that reimbursement of tuition fees up to the Higher Secondary stage is allowed for the children of Central Government employees;

(b) if so whether the amount paid on account of such reimbursement is taxable;

(c) whether it is also a fact that the amount paid to Central Government employees on account of Children's Education Allowance is not taxable;

(d) if so, what are the reasons for taxing the amount meant for reimbursement; and

(e) whether any relief is also allowed to Government employees in respect of their children studying in higher classes and professional courses ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI L. N. MISHRA) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) Both the reimbursement of tuition fees and the children educational allowance are liable to income-tax.

(d) Does not arise.

(e) No, Sir.

SURVEY OF THE PRICE LEVEL IN THE COUNTRY

*554. SHRI SITARAM JAIPURIA : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the attention of Government has been drawn to a news-item published in the Hindustan Times dated the 6th February, 1966 in which it has been mentioned that the United Chamber of Trade Association has made a survey that the prices of most articles of consumption have gone up between 25 and 40 per cent during the last year;