

THE MINISTER FOR HOME AFFAIRS AND STATES (DR. K. N. KATJU):

(a) No.

(b) Does not arise.

WHEAT LOAN FROM THE U.S.A.

*410. SHRI V. K. DHAGE: Will the Minister for FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the total amount of wheat loan received so far by India from the Government of the United States of America in pursuance of the Loan Agreement dated January 15, 1951; and

(b) what amount of this loan was to be adjusted towards the share of contribution of the Government of the United States of America to the community projects?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER FOR FINANCE (SHRI M. C. SHAH): (a) \$189.66 million.

(b) Nil.

SETTLEMENT OF BURMA'S DEBT TO INDIA

*411. SHRI SARDAR SINGH: Will the Minister for FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether any official delegation was sent to Rangoon recently to negotiate the settlement of Burma's debt to India; and

(b) if so, what progress has been achieved in the negotiations?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER FOR FINANCE (SHRI M. C. SHAH): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) It is not in the public interest to disclose the progress of the negotiations at this stage.

WOMEN'S COMMITTEE FOR THE SMALL SAVINGS SCHEME

*412. LT.-COL. J. S. MANN: Will the Minister for FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether a Women's Committee has recently been constituted to encourage the Small Savings Scheme; and

(b) if so, when it was constituted and what is the progress so far achieved by it?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER FOR FINANCE (SHRI A. C. GUHA): (a) and (b). A non-official Central Advisory Committee for Women's Savings Campaign has been constituted recently in order to assist in guiding and co-ordinating the Small Savings Movement and Advising Government and the various women's and other social organisations in the country. The campaign to intensify collection under the aegis of this Committee started only in October last and it is too early to assess its results.

(Postponed from the 17 December, 1953).

INTEREST CHARGED ON LOANS GRANTED FOR DAMODAR VALLEY CORPORATION

*371. SHRI P. C. BHANJ DEO: Will the Minister for FINANCE be pleased to state the reasons for charging lower rate of interest, viz., 4½ per cent., on loans sanctioned to the Government of Bihar and West Bengal for the Damodar Valley Corporation when the World Bank loan for this project carries a higher rate of interest viz., 4-7/8 per cent.?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER FOR FINANCE (SHRI M. C. SHAH): The rate of interest on loans sanctioned to the Governments of West Bengal and Bihar to cover rupee expenditure on the project varies from time to time. The rate to be charged on loans sanctioned to the Governments of West Bengal and Bihar to cover the dollar part of the expenditure met from World Bank loans has not yet been finally determined.

EXISTENCE OF A SLAUGHTER HOUSE IN LUCKNOW

239. PANDIT S. DUBE: Will the Minister for DEFENCE be pleased to state: