

MISUSE OF GOVERNMENT RESOURCES FOR PRIVATE DECORATIONS

487. CHAUDHARY A. MOHAMMAD : Will the Minister of WORKS, HOUSING AND SUPPLY be pleased to refer to the reply to Unstarred Question No. 306 given in the Rajya Sabha on the 7th May, 1968 and state :

(a) whether the investigations have since been completed to fix the responsibility in respect of the decorations done at the marriage of the daughter of a big Delhi Industrialist in December, 1967 and the marriage of the son of the same family in January, 1968;

(b) if so, the action taken against the officers responsible for the misuse of Government resources for such decorations; and

(c) whether the Directorate of Horticulture has undertaken similar work in the past and if so, when and in whose case ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF WORKS, HOUSING AND SUPPLY (SARDAR IQBAL SINGH) : (a) and (b) As mentioned in the reply to part (d) of the previous question on the subject, the matter has been looked into. The Directorate of Horticulture has been undertaking such private works on payment of necessary charges for over two decades. Approved rates exist for most of the items supplied and special rates are quoted for items for which no approved rates exist. Such works had been undertaken for Embassies, government servants, and private individuals on payment of charges. In the present case also, charges were realised for the work done. In the circumstances, the question of taking action against the officers does not arise.

(c) Yes. The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the Sabha.

TRIBUNAL FOR SETTLEMENT OF INTER-STATE RIVER WATERS DISPUTES

488. SHRI M. ASAD MADANI : Will the Minister of IRRIGATION AND POWER be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have now decided to set up a three-member tribunal to look into the controversy over the regional shares of river waters; and

(b) if so, whether the pending disputes are to be referred to the proposed tribunal?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF IRRIGATION AND POWER (PROF. SIDDHESHWAR PRASAD) : (a) It has been decided to amend the Inter-State Water Disputes Act, 1956 to provide for a three-Member Tribunal.

(b) Steps are being taken to refer the Krishna and Godavari Water Disputes to Tribunals.

RUSSIAN AID

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

(a) whether it is a fact that debt repayment to Russia at present has exceeded the aid received from that country;

(b) if so, what is the debt repayment position at present and what has been the total aid received from Russia so far; and

(c) whether it is also a fact that suitable re-scheduling arrangements for repayment of loans to the Soviet Union have been made by Government and if so the details thereof?

THE DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER AND MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI MORARJI R. DESAI) : (a) and (b) During 1967-68, a sum of Rs. 47.14 crores was drawn under the Soviet credits while the debt repayments amounted to Rs. 58.31 crores (including interest payment of Rs. 9.36 crores). In the current financial year, however, the debt repayments are expected to be less than the draws.

The draws under the Soviet credits upto 31st March, 1968 amounted to 632 million Roubles, of which 181 million Roubles have been repaid, leaving an outstanding debt of 451 million Roubles equivalent to Rs. 375 crores.

(c) In the case of U.S.S.R. there is a balanced trade and payments arrangement by which all payments including payments for imports as well as debt repayments are balanced against all earnings from exports and invisibles. From time to time, the two Governments discuss questions arising from these arrangements whether of imports, exports or debt repayments. By their very nature these are continuing discussions which take into account the change of situations from time to time.