

feasible by efforts to increase production, to keep a restraint on demand by appropriate fiscal and monetary policies, and to regulate the prices and distribution of essential articles of mass consumption in times of shortage.

Thefts in Silver Refinery, Calcutta

*1496. **Shri A. S. Saigal:**
Shri Maheswar Nalk:
Shrimati Tarkeshwari Sinha:
Shri N. R. Laskar:
Shri Liladhar Kotaki:
Shri B. Barua:

Will the Minister of Finance be pleased to state:

(a) whether a large quantity of silver has been stolen from the Silver Refinery, Calcutta;

(b) if so, the quantity stolen; and

(c) the steps taken to recover the same?

The Minister of State in the Ministry of Finance (Shri B. R. Bhagat):
 (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c). On two recent occasions process scrap, of fairly high silver content, totalling 18.85 kgs was detected outside the security area of the Silver Refinery. On the first occasion circumstantial evidence indicated that there had been an attempt at theft by a certain employee and the investigation was accordingly entrusted to the police. On the second occasion no specific connection with any person could be established and hence the scrap was brought to the account of the Refinery. The scrap recovered on the earlier occasion will presumably be returned to the Silver Refinery after the police proceedings have taken their course.

Horse Races in India

*1497. **Dr. P. Srinivasan:** Will the Minister of Finance be pleased to state:

(a) whether there are any proposals to abolish horse races in the country;

(b) if not, whether there are any proposals to ban import of Jockeys at least to save foreign exchange; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

The Minister of Finance (Shri Sachindra Chaudhuri): (a) This is a State subject, Sir.

(b) and (c). Engagement of foreign Jockeys is being controlled under the foreign exchange regulations. The Government keep a close watch on any proposed engagement of any foreign Jockey.

Renting of Government Quarters by Allottees

*1498. **Shrimati Tarkeshwari Sinha:** Will the Minister of Works, Housing and Urban Development be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a large number of Government employees who have been allotted Government accommodation have rented the whole of such accommodation on exorbitant rents;

(b) whether it is also a fact that a handsome amount is extracted as premium or pugree by such employees; and

(c) if so, the steps taken by Government to prevent these illegal activities?

The Minister of Works, Housing and Urban Development (Shri Mehr Chand Khanna): (a) and (b). No. As against the total number of 39,000 general pool residences allotted to Government servants in Delhi, the average number of complaints of unauthorised subletting and/or charging of high rents etc. was only 18 per month during the last one year.

(c) The complaints are duly investigated and wherever the allegations are substantiated, appropriate action is taken against the defaulters.

U.K. Loan

*1499. **Shri Panna Lal:**
Shri Vishwa Nath Pandey:

Shri P. C. Borooah:
Shri D. C. Sharma:
Shri Flordia:
Shri Ram Harkh Yadav:

Will the Minister of **Finance** be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a loan pact was signed between U.K. and India recently;

(b) if so, on what terms; and

(c) the total amount of loan given by U.K. to India under this agreement?

The Minister of Finance (Shri Sachindra Chaudhuri): (a) to (c). Two loan agreements totalling £ 5 million (Rs. 6.67 crores) were signed between the Government of the United Kingdom and the Government of India on 20th April, 1966. The larger loan was in the amount of £ 4.833 million (Rs. 6.44 crores) for financing the import of components and specialised raw-materials from the U.K. by the Bhopal Heavy Electrical Project. The other loan in the amount of £ 0.167 million (Rs. 0.23 crore) was for providing foreign exchange for the construction of a Sulphuric Acid Plant at Sindri for the Pyrites and Chemicals Development Company Limited. These loans form part of British Consortium Assistance to India for 1965/66 and are repayable over a period of 25 years inclusive of a grace period of 7 years and no interest payment is involved.

Increase in Power Rates by N.D.M.C.

*1500. **Shri Maheswar Naik:**
Shri Onkar Lal Berwa:
Dr. L. M. Singhvi:
Shri Hukam Chand
Kachhavalya:
Shri Yashpal Singh:
Shri Bade:

Will the Minister of **Irrigation and Power** be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the New Delhi Municipal Committee has

announced that the rates of power supply for both domestic and commercial purposes are going to be enhanced from 9 and 13 paise to 11 and 15 paise respectively from the 1st June, 1966; and

(b) whether Government propose to intervene in the matter and if so, in what way?

The Minister of Irrigation and Power (Shri Fakhruddin Ahmed):

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) No, Sir.

D.A. to Employees in States

*1501. **Shri Nath Pal:**
Dr. Mahadeva Prasad:

Will the Minister of **Finance** be pleased to state:

(a) the names of State Governments which had announced the grant of Dearness Allowance at par with the allowance given to the Central Government employees;

(b) whether any of these Governments asked for Central assistance in this connection; and

(c) if so, the amount given or offered to be given from the Central resources to the States?

The Minister of State in the Ministry of Finance (Shri B. R. Bhagat):

(a) Though a number of State Governments have announced increases in the rates of Dearness Allowance of their employees, only the Madras Government have decided to bring them on par with the existing Central rates.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) No Central assistance has either been given or offered for this purpose.