

Shri Subodh Hansda:
Shri P. C. Borooah:

Will the Minister of Finance be pleased to refer to the reply given to Starred Question No. 179 on the 11th November, 1965 regarding economy in expenditure and state:

(a) whether the Committee headed by the Cabinet Secretary to review the activities of different Ministries has submitted a report;

(b) if so, its main findings and recommendations; and

(c) whether the Report will be laid on the Table?

The Deputy Minister in the Ministry of Finance (Shri L. N. Mishra): (a) No, Sir. The Committee was not required to submit a formal report to the Government. But the budget estimates of the Ministries for 1966-67, particularly the non-plan portion, were framed on the basis of the conclusions of the Committee reached after discussion with the secretaries of the administrative Ministries.

(b) and (c). A statement is laid on the Table of the House. [Placed in Library. See No. LT-5795/66]

Retail Prices of Commodities

*605. **Shri Madhu Limaye:** Will the Minister of Finance be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have compiled statistics about the increase in the retail prices of essential commodities like cereals (open market), kerosene, pulses, edible oils, sugar and cloth during the period from September, 1965 to February, 1966;

(b) whether Government have noticed any big gap between the prices fixed by Government manufacturers and the actual prices paid by the consumers; and

(c) if so, the action proposed to be taken to remedy the situation?

The Minister of Finance (Shri Sachindra Chaudhuri): (a) to (c). Information is being collected from the concerned authorities.

चौथी योजना में आयोजन का रुझान

*606. **श्री सिद्धेश्वर प्रसाद :** क्या योजना मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) क्या उनका ध्यान इस तथ्य की ओर दिलाया गया है कि तीन योजना अवधियों में हमारे उत्पादन तन्त्र का रुझान जन-साधारण की आवश्यकताओं को पूरा करने की प्रपेक्षा विलास वस्तुओं के उत्पादन की ओर अधिक रहा है ;

(ख) यदि हां, तो इसके क्या कारण हैं ; और

(ग) क्या चौथी योजना में इस रुझान में कोई परिवर्तन होने की संभावना है ?

योजना मंत्री (श्री अशोक मेहता) :

(क) और (ख). हमारी सब विकास योजनाओं में, उत्पादन तन्त्र को आवश्यक उपभोग और पूंजीगत सामान की सप्लाई में विस्तार करने की दिशा में मोड़ देने का प्रयत्न किया जा रहा है, न कि विलास की वस्तुओं का ।

(ग) जैसा कि ऊपर बताया जा चुका है, रुझान में परिवर्तन का प्रश्न नहीं उठता ।

Power Rates of Public Sector Power Undertakings

*607. **Shri Mohammad Elias:**
Dr. Ramen Sen:
Shri S. M. Banerjee:

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

(a) whether it is a fact that most of the public sector power supply undertakings in India have recently increased their power rates substantially with a view to increase their earnings as per recommendations of the Venkataraman Committee; and

(b) if so, the steps taken by those undertakings for reduction of expenditure and effecting economy in all directions before the increase in power rates?

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

(a) Seven out of fourteen State Electricity Boards have reviewed their rates subsequent to the circulation of the Venkataraman Committee Report. The rates have generally increased though some of the Boards have decreased the rates for certain categories of services. The details of the changes are given in the Annexure laid on the Table of the House. [Placed in Library. See No. LT-5796/66] Under section 59 of the Electricity (Supply) Act, 1948, the Boards are not to carry on their operations at a loss, as far as practicable. The recommendations of the Venkataraman Committee regarding financial returns as accepted by the Government have also influenced the Boards in working out their revised rates.

(b) The State Electricity Boards have taken steps towards reduction of expenditure and effecting economy by taking several steps e.g., reducing the stand-by capacity, saving of capital expenditure on available civil works, economising in the use of vehicles, stationery, curtailment of expenditure on new posts etc.

Committee on Technical Consultancy Services

***608. Shri Dharmalingam:** Will the Minister of Planning be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Union Government have appointed a Committee on Technical Consultancy Services; and

(b) if so, the constitution and functions thereof?

The Minister of Planning (Shri Asoka Mehta): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) A copy of the Government Resolution containing the constitution

and functions of the Committee is laid on the Table of the House. [Placed in Library. See No. LT-5797/66]

Upper Krishna Project

***609. Shri Linga Reddy:** Will the Minister of Irrigation and Power be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government of Mysore have represented that the Upper Krishna Project in Mysore State should be taken over and executed as a centrally sponsored scheme; and

(b) if so, the action taken thereon?

The Minister of Irrigation and Power (Shri Fakhruddin Ahmed): (a) and (b). The request of the Mysore Government for the financing of the Upper Krishna Project entirely by the Centre is being considered in the context of the general question regarding the manner of financing of large multi-purpose projects.

World Bank's Rate of Interest

***610. Shrimati Maimoona Sultan: Shri Yashpal Singh:**

Will the Minister of Finance be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the reports that the World Bank is proposing to raise its interest rates;

(b) if so, the precise proposal of the World Bank, and

(c) Government's reaction thereto?

The Minister of Finance (Shri Sachindra Chaudhuri): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The proposal is understood to be to raise the interest rate from $5\frac{1}{2}\%$ to 6%.

(c) While the raising of the interest rate will obviously make further loans from the World Bank to developing countries costlier, it will also enable the Bank to raise more funds from