

ment have reviewed and revised the amount of house-building advance to Central Government employees of different categories; and

(b) if so, Government's decision in this regard ?

The Minister of Works, Housing and Urban Development (Shri Mehr Chand Khanna): (a) and (b). The House Building Advance Rules already provide for grant of loan equal to 36 months basic pay of a Central Government servant, subject to a maximum of Rs. 25,000/-, for construction of a new house or for purchasing a ready built house subject to certain conditions. Funds being limited, enhancement in the quantum of loan will reduce the number of beneficiaries and it will also be beyond the repaying capacity of many Government servants. It is not therefore considered desirable to raise the ceiling of loan at present prescribed under the Rules.

Hotel Industry

***413. Shri Hem Raj :
Shri Daljit Singh :**

Will the Minister of **Works, Housing and Urban Development** be pleased to state :

(a) whether his ministry have any programme of hotel construction during the Fourth Plan ;

(b) if so, at what places ; and

(c) whether any coordination has been made by his Ministry and the Ministry of Transport and Aviation, who have their own programme of hotel construction for the proper functioning of the hotel industry in India ?

The Minister of Works, Housing and Urban Development (Shri Mehr Chand Khanna) : (a) and (b). The Fourth Plan is still in its formation stage.

(c) Yes. In all important matters consultations are held between the Ministries of Works, Housing and Urban Development and Transport and Aviation.

Lands to Cooperative Societies

***414. Shrimati Maimoona Sultan :
Shri Surendra Pal Singh :**

Will the Minister of **Works, Housing and Urban Development** be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have decided not to allow the Cooperative House-building Societies in Delhi to distribute land to their members, so that the land will belong to the cooperatives and the houses built on them to the members; and

(b) if so, the reason therefor ?

The Minister of Works, Housing and Urban Development (Shri Mehr Chand Khanna) : (a) and (b). There is a proposal to allot developed land to co-operative house building societies so as to enable them to construct houses/flats on "group housing basis". The objective underlying this proposal is that the society will retain ownership of the land as well as the flats/houses and provide common facilities. The members, to whom houses/flats are allotted, will only be lessees of the society. This proposal is still under consideration.

Reduction in Government Expenditure

***415. Shri P. Kunhan :
Dr. Saradish Roy :
Shri M. N. Swamy :
Shri Imbichibava :
Shri Hem Raj :**

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

(a) whether the Prime Minister has issued directive to the States and Central Ministries for 10 per cent reduction in Government expenditure;

(b) if so, whether this directive has been implemented by all the States and the Central Ministries ;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor ; and

(d) whether the Central Government have also directed that the economy measures should not result in retrenchment of staff?

The Deputy Minister in the Ministry of Finance (Shri L. N. Mishra): (a) to (d). A statement giving the information is laid on the Table of the House [*Placed in Library See No. LT-6748/66*].

Raids on Business Houses in Calcutta

***416. Shri Surendranath Dwivedy :**
Shri Hem Barua :
Shri Hari Vishnu Kamat :
Shri Nath Pai :

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

(a) whether soon after assumption of office, he addressed a meeting of the Income-tax and Customs Officials in Calcutta and advised them to go slow in regard to the raids of private business houses and other concerns in the city ;

(b) the number of raids made by these Authorities in Calcutta between the months of August and December, 1965 and the number of raids made during the period from January to June, 1966; and

(c) in how many cases, his permission was sought to raid the houses of some prominent Congress leaders and businessmen and whether such permission was granted ?

The Minister of State in the Ministry of Finance (Shri B. R. Bhagat) : (a) The Finance Minister had occasion to refer to raids generally in the course of a discussion with Income-Tax and Customs Officials in Calcutta soon after assumption of office. It is not a fact that he advised the officials to go slow in regard to the raids in private business houses and other concerns in the city or in regard to any raids at all. What he advised them was that while all proper cases should be pursued vigorously with all the rigours of the law

before undertaking searches the Departments concerned should give proper consideration to the reliability of the information on the basis of which the searches were made so that harassment of innocent persons and consequent embarrassment of Government and unnecessary spending of Government funds might be minimised.

(b) The total number of searches conducted by the Customs and Income Tax officials in Calcutta during the two periods were 349 and 163 respectively.

(c) Under the law, authorisation for search is issued, in respect of Income-tax, by the Commissioner of Income-tax, and in respect of Customs, by the Assistant Collector of Customs. The field officers empowered to issue such authorisation may, when they consider it necessary, seek the advice of their superior officers or of the respective Boards of Revenue. The authorisation of the Minister is not necessary and no case of proposed search was referred to the Minister from the Income-Tax and Customs Departments during the period August, 1965 to June, 1966. Whether in regard to prominent Congress leaders and businessmen or any one at all.

Officer's Tours Abroad

***417. Shri Buta Singh :**
Shri Narasimha Reddy :

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

(a) the details of Officers who went abroad during January-July, 1966 and for what purpose ; and

(b) the total amount which Government spent for this purpose ?

The Deputy Minister in the Ministry of Finance (Shri L. N. Mishra) : (a) and (b). Information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House as soon as it is available.