

(b) The States in the North Eastern Region have, through the North Eastern Council, moved that each of the States/Union Territories in the region should be provided with at least one rail-head to facilitate exploitation of the natural resources of the region as well as for opening up of the areas from the point of view of economic, administrative and strategy requirements. Accordingly, surveys have been initiated in respect of eight railway sections in the region. These surveys are now in progress.

Statement

HILL AREAS—STATEWISE ALLOCATIONS:

(In Rupee crores)

	1974-75	1975-76	1976-77
West Bengal	2.50	2.50	3.00
Assam	3.00	3.00	5.00
Uttar Pradesh	12.00	12.00	22.00
Tamil Nadu	1.00	1.00	1.50
Western Ghats Region.. . . .	1.50	1.50	4.50
	20.00	20.00	36.00

Voluntary cut in prices in Delhi

1483. SHRI S. A. MURUGANATHAM: Will the Minister of CIVIL SUPPLIES AND COOPERATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether shopkeepers in Delhi have voluntarily reduced the prices of their articles by 10 to 50 per cent on the occasion of the first anniversary of the Prime Minister's 20 Point Economic Programme;

(b) if so, the facts thereof; and

(c) whether Government are aware that these shopkeepers had increased the prices of the articles just before this declaration and reduced the prices

only to hoodwink the people as well as Government?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL SUPPLIES AND COOPERATION (SHRI A. C. GEORGE): (a) and (b). The Delhi shopkeepers have generally reduced the prices of their articles on the occasion of the first anniversary of the Prime Minister's 20-Point Economic Programme though the percentage of reduction in prices varies from trade to trade. For example, the Delhi State Retail Cloth Dealers Federation offered a cut of 5-15 per cent, Central Radio and Electronics Association a cut of 2 per cent, New Delhi Traders Association a discount of 1.2½ per cent and Delhi State Copy Manufacturers Association a cut of 20 per cent commission.

(c) No such case has been reported to the Delhi Administration.

Functioning of Cooperatives

1484. SHRI BIBHUTI MISHRA: Will the Minister of CIVIL SUPPLIES AND COOPERATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the press report in papers dated the 17th June, 1976 captioned "Functioning of cooperatives assailed";

(b) if so, what sort of reforms are needed in cooperatives to serve the best interests of the rural people;

(c) whether Government contemplate any uniform enactment for the whole country for this purpose; and

(d) the main features of the scheme drawn to increase the membership of the cooperatives?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL SUPPLIES AND COOPERATION (SHRI A. C. GEORGE): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The important aspects which need and are receiving serious attention are: re-organisation of primary agricultural credit societies into viable, multi-purpose societies, with full time employees, universalisation of their membership, streamlining of their loaning policies and procedures with accent on helping the weaker sections and induction of weaker sections in the management of these societies.

(c) Administrative as well as legislative action by the State Governments are called for and guidelines have been issued to them on various aspects referred to in reply to part (b) of this Question.

(d) Universalisation of membership of primary agricultural cooperative credit societies to cover particularly the weaker sections, is being brought about through legislative provisions, administrative action and also inclusion, by legislation, of weaker sections in the management of these societies.

Bank Accounts Maintained by Indians in Foreign Countries

1485. SHRI HARI SINGH;
SHRI JHARKHANDE RAI;
SHRI P. M. MEHTA;
SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether seventy bank accounts maintained abroad by the Indian citizens without the permission of the Reserve Bank of India, have been detected by the Enforcement Directorate during the first five months of the current year;

(b) if so, the facts thereof and total amount involved; and

(c) what steps Government propose to take against them?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS, DEPARTMENT OF PERSONNEL AND ADMINISTRATIVE REFORMS AND DEPARTMENT OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI OM MEHTA): (a) A number of instances of maintenance of bank accounts abroad by persons in India which appear, *prima facie*, to be unauthorised, have been detected by the Enforcement Directorate in the recent past.

(b) It will not be in the interests of the investigations of these cases to disclose, at this stage, the facts of the cases and the details about the amounts involved.

(c) On completion of the enquiries appropriate action will be taken by the concerned authorities in accordance with the relevant provisions of the Foreign Exchange Regulation Act.

British India Corporation

1486 SHRI RAJDEO SINGH: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the performance of the British India Corporation is upto the mark;

(b) if so, whether to improve its working it has proposed to participate in a joint sector project in association with U.P Export Corporation; and

(c) whether a new Company under the name and style of Bhadohi Wool-lens is proposed to be formed for the purpose of joint sector?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (SHRI B. P. MAURYA): (a) to (c). After payment of tax, the profit of B.I.C. during the last four years has been as follows:

1972	...	Rs. 26.98 lakhs
1973	...	Rs. 42.10 lakhs
1974	...	Rs. 5.78 lakhs
1975	...	Rs. 54.94 lakhs