

are found to have become sticky.

(d) & (e). The banks recover their dues as per measures available in the normal legal course such as filing of suits, compromises etc. and there is no proposal to give more legal powers directly to banks in this regard.

[*Translation*]

Commission for Bidi Workers

2530. SHRIMATI SAROJ DUBEY: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to set up a Commission for the welfare of bidi workers; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI P.A. SANGMA): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

[*English*]

Recruitment Centres

2531. SHRI JEEWAN SHARMA: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the recruitment centres for the three services in the eight hilly districts of Uttar Pradesh;

(b) whether the Government propose to open more such centres in the country particularly in the interior areas of the hilly districts in Uttar Pradesh;

(c) if so, the details thereof, State-wise and the steps taken in this regard; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI MALLIKARJUN): (a) There are three Branch Recruiting Offices, one each at Lansdown, Almora and Pithoragarh, providing recruitment coverage to the hilly districts of Uttar Pradesh.

(b) to (d). There is no proposal to open any new recruiting centre in the country, as the existing centres are adequately meeting the requirements of candidates seeking entry into the Armed Forces.

[*Translation*]

Amendments in Central Excise Rules

2532. SHRI RATILAL VERMA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to amend the Central Excise Rules to match with the liberalised economic policies;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the time by which it is likely to be done?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (M.V. CHANDRASEKHARA MURYHY): (a) to (c). Rationalisation and re-structuring of any tax Law, including Central Excise Law, is an on-going process. Necessary amendments are carried out, as and when the need arises.

French Assistance for Projects in Bihar

2533. SHRI RAMASHRAY PRASAD SINGH: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether a portion of the loan assistance received from France is being utilised in Bihar;

(b) if so, the details in this regard and the total amount allocated to the various projects under implementation project-wise and the new projects to be started during the current year;

(c) whether some of the above projects have involved more time and cost than estimated; and

(d) if so, the reasons therefor and the details of the revised cost and time limit?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (DR. ABRAR AHMED):

(a) and (b). Yes, Sir. There is only one project in Bihar viz. East Katras, where French assistance is being utilised. An amount of French Franc 3.7168 million has been secured for this project by signing a financial Protocol with the French on 26th March, 1991. No new project in Bihar is likely to be started with French assistance during the current financial year.

(c) and (d). There had been delay in the implementation of this project. The total slippage in the completion of this project is 24 months. The revised anticipated date of completion of this project is March, 1994. The reasons for slippage on target date are as under:

(i) Short length of longwall panels, as planned in the Revised Project Report, resulting in frequent shifting off the longwall set from one panel to another thereby lowering the overall performance of the longwall equipment. The present longwall panel is only 160 meters long

and is expected to last for about 4 months only.

(ii) Delay in procurement of additional Blasting Gallery Equipments.

[English]

Varapuzha Bridge

2534. PROF. K.V. THOMAS: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have acquired land for construction of Varapuzha bridge on National Highway No. 17 in Emakulam district of Kerala;

(b) if so, when the construction work is likely to be started; and

(c) the total cost on the construction of the bridge?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Construction work on this bridge can be started only after the estimate for the bridge is sanctioned by the Government and work is awarded.

(c) The estimated cost of construction of the bridge is Rs. 26.64 crores.

Changes in the Labour Policy

2535. SHRI TARA CHAND KHANDELWAL: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to streamline the existing labour policy;

(b) if so, the details of the changes proposed to be made in the existing labour