

commission have been revised from time to time and is 4.0 per cent from 1.7.1976.

(b) The Associations representing the Mahila agents have sought for increase in the rate of commission.

Circulation of soiled currency notes

3682. SHRI N. DENNIS: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of soiled currency notes in circulation; and

(b) if so, the steps taken to stop its circulation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC AFFAIRS IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO): (a) and (b). The Reserve Bank of India have issued instructions to all banks maintaining Currency Chest to sort out notes available with them into reissuables and non-issuables and issue to public and other banks only reissuable notes which are not soiled/torn/mutilated alongwith fresh notes. Facilities for exchange of soiled notes have been made available at all branches of public sector banks for the benefit of public.

[*Translation*]

Life of a panel recommended by UPSC

3683. SHRI SARFARAZ AHMED: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) the time after which the panel lapses after selection of the candidates by the Union Public Service Commission and receipt of the list by the Ministry and whether this panel lapses automatically or the Ministry issues any communique in this regard;

(b) whether a panel for the post of editor for some journals being published under his Ministry, exists for the last few months; and

(c) whether there has been delay in despatching appointment letters?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRIMATI KRISHNA SAHI): (a) Government instructions provide that offers of appointment to candidates recommended by Union Public Service Commission for direct recruitment, should normally be issued within 3-4 months and undue delay in making such offers should be avoided.

(b) The Union Public Service Commission has recommended one Candidate each for appointment to the post of Editor, Bhagirath (English) and Editor, Bhagirath (Hindi), two journals being published by the Central Water Commission an attached office of the Ministry of Water Resources

(c) For the post of Editor, Bhagirath (English), action to issue appointment letter is under progress. For the post of Editor, Bhagirath (Hindi), the offer of appointment has already been issued.

Irrigation area under Banswara Mahi Project (Rajasthan)

3684. SHRI PRABHU LAL RAWAT: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state the total area of land irrigated by Banswara Mahi Project in Rajasthan?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRIMATI KRISHNA SAHI): An area of about 45,000 ha. of land has been brought under irrigation so far against the design potential of 80,000 ha. under the Mahi Bajaj-Sagar Project in Rajasthan.

[*English*]

Disposal of handloom stock in Punjab

3685. SHRI KAMAL CHAUDHRY: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state the steps taken to ensure disposal of stocks lying with handloom societies in Punjab?