

arms including self-loading rifles, metal detectors, vehicles and drug identification kits. The various formations of this Collectorate have also been linked through a wireless network to enable quick exchange of information and follow-up action on seizures. X-ray baggage machines are also being installed at the airports at Patna and Babatpur (Varanasi)

The Directorate of Revenue Intelligence which is the apex body for collection, collation and dissemination of intelligence on smuggling activity supports this Collectorate.

[English]

**Government Check on Deposits by
Indians in Swiss Banks**

439. SHRI SANAT KUMAR MANDAL :
Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether his attention has been invited to the news item captioned "Indians" Swiss Banks deposits increasing" appearing in the 'Times of India; New Delhi dated 6 October, 1988;

(b) if so, whether he has got the matter looked into particularly the reasons for 30-50 per cent increase annually during the last four years;

(c) whether Government are in a position to exercise any check on such deposits by the Indians abroad;

(d) if so, what is the nature of the check and whether it is obligatory on these depositors to intimate to the Reserve Bank of India or his Ministry about such deposits; and

(e) if not what checks do Government propose to take to discourage such hoarding of concealed and ill gotten wealth in Swiss banks?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE
DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC AFFAIRS

IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO) : (a) to (e). Government have seen the Press report which is based on an article entitled "Capital Flight and Developing Countries" published in September 1988 issue of Central Bank of India's Economic Bulletin. In that article, the author has mentioned that according to some estimates Indian funds in Swiss banks have been going up by about 30-35 per cent every year. This view is not based on any study undertaken by Central Bank of India, nor supported by any authentic data or information. The views expressed in the article are personal views of the author and not of the Central Bank of India. No person resident in India can keep accounts in Switzerland or any other country outside India without the permission of the Reserve Bank of India.

Voting Age

440. SHRI P.M. SAYEED:
CH. KHURSHID AHMED :

Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have received proposals regarding lowering the age of the voters from 21 to 18 years;

(b) if so, the details of the proposals thus received;

(c) the action taken or proposed to be taken in this regard; and

(d) whether Government also propose to reduce the qualifying age for candidature to the Lok Sabha and State Legislatures from the existing 25 years to 21 years and if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE
MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI H.R. BHARDWAJ) (a) to (c). The Election Commission has drawn attention to the fact that in a large number of countries, the voting age is 18. This subject is presently being debated extensively. This is being taken

note of, but no final decision has been taken.

(d) There is no such proposal.

Talks on Telugu -Ganga Project

441. SHRI BANWARI LAL PUROHIT :
SHRI PRAKASH V. PATIL:
SHRI MULLAPPALLY RAMACHANDRAN:
SHRI H.N. NANJE GOWDA :

Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Union Government recently invited the Chief Ministers of Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka and Maharashtra to resolve the Telugu-Ganga issue; and

(b) if so, the outcome thereof?

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE AND MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI B. SHANKARANAND) :
(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The proposed meeting did not materialise as the Chief Minister of Andhra Pradesh declined to attend.

[*Translation*]

Committee to Curtail Government Expenditure

443. DR. CHANDRA SHEKHAR TRIPATHI:
SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL :
SHRI VIRDHI CHANDER JAIN:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have constituted a committee to look onto the ways to curtail Government expenditure;

(b) if so, whether the said committee

has started working;

(c) if so, the time by which the committee will submit its report; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF EXPENDITURE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI B.K.GADHVI) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (d). The deliberations of the committee are a part of internal decision making process in Government.

[*English*]

FICCI's Suggestions for Exports Increase

444. SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have received suggestions from the Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FICCI) for increasing exports to wipe out the deficit;

(b) if so, what are the main suggestions and whether these are based on some specific study or assessment made by them; and

(c) the reaction of Government in the matter and the action proposed to be taken on the suggestions?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P.R. DASMUNSI) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The main suggestions pertain to immediate release of funds under the IPRS Scheme; simplification of procedural formalities; constitution of groups for thrust sectors to monitor their export performance; minimising the import duty on raw materials /capital goods & project imports; and reduction in the interest rates on export finance.