

(b) if so, the action Government have taken against those who have been held responsible therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI K. R. GANESH): (a) Yes, Sir; irregularities involving under assessment loss of revenue to the extent of Rs. 49.29 Lakhs have been reported by the Comptroller and Auditor General of India in Para 17 of his Report on Central Government (Civil) Revenue Receipts for the year 1969-70. However, the Auditor General's Report is still to be discussed with the Public Accounts Committee when the Government's point of view will be explained to that Committee.

(b) A substantial portion of the loss of revenue reported by the C.&A.G. (Rs. 30 Lakhs out of Rs. 49.29 Lakhs) is in respect of the Central Excise duty involved on excisable goods cleared under bond for export, for which the proof of export had not been furnished. Since then, the Collector has reported that the relevant documents showing proof of export have become available in respect of goods involving Rs. 14,10,449.54 of revenue.

A sum of Rs. 2,02,576 represents those cases where the cheques issued by the assesses against duty payments were lost or presented to the Bank late, but, in all these cases fresh cheques were obtained and encashed, and there has, therefore, been no loss of revenue.

In all other cases of reported short assessments, either the C.&A.G.'s Audit objection has not been admitted by the Government or, the demands for differential duty were raised on receipt of the Audit objection, but the parties have disputed the assessments and have gone in Appeal or Revision Applications and the cases are *sub-judice*.

All these cases of procedural irregularities, short assessments due to wrong classification, etc. are still to be finally decided, and, in many cases, the Government's point of view is still to be explained before the Public Accounts Committee. If, after, the finalisation of cases, it is found that any officer has been negligent or at fault, necessary action will be taken.

Opening of Branches of Nationalised Banks

3746. **SHRI B. K. DASCHOWDHURY:** Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to

state :

(a) how many new branches of nationalised banks Government propose to open during the current financial year, State-wise ;

(b) whether Government have discussed this matter (according to State-wise demand) with the State Governments before the decision of opening of new Branches of banks is finalised ; and

(c) the places in North Bengal region of West Bengal where new Branches are expected to be opened ?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI YESHWANTRAO CHAVAN): (a) According to the programmes drawn up so far nearly 700 new offices are proposed to be opened by the 14 nationalised banks by the end of 1971/early 1972. State-wise details are not readily available.

(b) The programmes of branch expansion indicated above were drawn up at meetings of bankers concerned by Reserve Bank at regional level for allotment of growth centres identified in the course of survey by the lead banks of respective districts. Programmes for the districts not covered in this way are finalised at the district or State level by the lead banks. State Government officials are generally associated with these meetings.

(c) According to programmes drawn up so far 16 new offices are proposed to be opened in the districts in North Bengal in the course of this year. Further programmes will be drawn up after the survey of the districts by the respective lead banks are completed.

Criteria for Admission to Colleges in Delhi for Scheduled Caste Candidates

3747. **SHRI B. K. DASCHOWDHURY:** Will the Minister of EDUCATION AND SOCIAL WELFARE be pleased to state the criteria adopted in the current academic year for admission of Scheduled Caste candidates in the various Colleges run by the Delhi University ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF EDUCATION AND SOCIAL WELFARE AND IN THE DEPARTMENT

OF CULTURE (SHRI D. P. YADAVA): According to the University of Delhi, candidates belonging to the Scheduled Castes/Scheduled Tribes have been registered by the University for purposes of admission to the various courses in the Colleges. 20% of the total number of seats in each course have also been reserved for the candidates belonging to the Scheduled Castes/Scheduled Tribes (15% for Scheduled Castes and 5% for Scheduled Tribes interchangeable, if necessary). Relaxation to the extent of 5% in the minimum marks has also been given to these candidates in order to determine their eligibility and merit for admission to the course concerned.

The total number of students registered in the University will be divided on the basis of their first and subsequent preferences for allotment to the various colleges and admission slips will be issued to them and the colleges will be informed of the list of all students, so registered, by the University.

Variation in prices of Admission Forms and Prospectus sold by different Colleges in Delhi

3748. SHRI B. K. DASCHOWDHURY: Will the Minister of EDUCATION AND SOCIAL WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government are aware that the prices fixed for admission forms and prospectus vary from College to College in Delhi ;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor and the steps Government propose to take to bring uniformity in the prices of admission forms and booklets sold by Colleges in Delhi ; and

(c) the steps Government propose to take to ensure that poor students who are unable to purchase these booklets of various Colleges are able to select the College, of their own choice ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF EDUCATION AND SOCIAL WELFARE AND IN THE DEPARTMENT OF CULTURE (SHRI D. P. YADAVA): (a) to (c). According to the University of Delhi, there is some variation in prices of admission forms and prospectus published by colleges. This is on account of the size of the prospectus and the cost involved in getting them printed. The question of bring-

ing uniformity in the prospectus of different colleges as well as fixing reasonable price is being reviewed by the University.

Efforts made to trace the missing Indian Cargo Vessel "Mahajagmitra"

3749. SHRI BRIJ RAJ SINGH—KOTAH: Will the Minister of SHIPPING AND TRANSPORT be pleased to state :

(a) what further efforts have been made to ascertain whether the cargo ship found grounded at about same time near Bhola Islands in East Pakistan was the same Indian Cargo vessel "Mahajagmitra", which had left Calcutta Port on the 11th November, 1970 ; and

(b) if not, what further action has been taken by Indian Government in this matter ?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND SHIPPING AND TRANSPORT (SHRI RAJ BAHADUR): (a) According to the information received from Mr. R. Bragg, a Director of the South East Asia Shipping Company, and the Deputy High Commissioner of India in Dacca, the vessels grounded near Bhola Islands were all Pakistani vessels. Mr. Bragg, in his evidence before the Court of Enquiry also stated that he caused an aerial search to be made in his presence of areas over Bhola in Barisal district and portions of Noakhali and Sandwip Islands, but there was no trace of M. V. "Mahajagmitra." On the basis of evidence placed before the Court, it came to the conclusion that the loss of the vessel was an act of God, so to say, in the heavy weather under severe cyclonic storm.

(b) Extensive aerial searches of our coastal areas and the coastal areas of Pakistan and Burma outside territorial waters were carried out but without any positive result.

श्रीलंका आदिवासियों की शिक्षा तथा आर्थिक उन्नति

3750. श्री राजराज सिंह—कोटा : क्या शिक्षा और समाज कल्याण मन्त्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) क्या महाराणा प्रताप के शौर्य की