

National Defence Remittance Scheme

1268. Shrimati Savitri Nigam:
Shri R. Barua:
Shri D. D. Mantri:

Will the Minister of Finance be pleased to state:

(a) the amount received under the National Defence Remittances Scheme during the last one year;

(b) whether the scheme will be extended further; and

(c) if so, the nature thereof?

The Minister of Finance (Shri Sachindra Chaudhuri): (a) The National Defence Remittance Scheme was in operation from the 9th October, 1965 to the 31st May, 1966. The total amounts received under this Scheme, as per returns submitted by Banks upto 26-7-66 came to Rs. 68.75 crores.

(b) and (c). The Scheme came to a close on the 31st May, 1966 and the question of extending it does not arise. However, the last date for submission of import applications has been extended from the 31st August, 1966 to 31st December, 1966.

Damodar Navigational Canal

1269. Dr. M. M. Das: Will the Minister of Irrigation and Power be pleased to state:

(a) whether all arrangements have been completed for using the Damodar Navigational Canal for the purpose for which it was constructed;

(b) if so, whether barges have begun to carry coal from Durgapur to Calcutta;

(c) the total expenditure incurred on the construction of the Canal; and

(d) the likely annual income, if any, from the Canal?

The Minister of Irrigation and Power (Shri Fakhruddin Ahmed): (a) Yes. The commercial operation of the Canal has been entrusted to a private firm, M/s. Hindusthan Shipping Co.,

Ltd., Howrah, for a period of 10 years. The firm has been operating the Canal since October, 1965.

(b) No. However, barges have started carrying cargo such as sand and other materials.

(c) Rs. 520 lakhs.

(d) In accordance with the contract entered into with the firm, no toll will be levied during the first three years, and therefore, there will be no income during this period. During the period of subsequent three years, toll at the rate of Rs. 1.50 per tonne will be collected. Subsequently, the rate of toll will be subject to review within a ceiling of Rs. 2.00 per tonne. The expected annual income during the period after the initial three years has not yet been assessed.

Affairs of Sriram Durga Prasad of Nagpur

1270. Shri Hari Vishnu Kamath:
Shri Hem Larua:
Shri Surendranath Dwivedy:
Shri Nath Pai:

Will the Minister of Finance be pleased to state:

(a) whether the investigations into the charges against Sriram Durga Prasad of Nagpur has been completed;

(b) if so, with what results; and

(c) if not, the reasons for the inordinate delay?

The Minister of Finance (Shri Sachindra Chaudhuri): (a) to (c). Investigations by the Directorate of Enforcement have been completed. Investigations by the Customs Department, the Income-tax Department and the Central Bureau of Investigation are still in progress. The Customs authorities have already issued more than one hundred show-cause notices and more notices are under preparation. The Income-tax authorities have re-opened more than one hundred assessments in respect of income-tax and wealth tax. The