

toms duty.

(b) In the Budget 1990-91, keeping in view the decline in the international price of MEG, import duty on that item was increased from 90% (basic + auxiliary) to 150% (basic + auxiliary).

(c) and (d). There are reports that the international prices of paraxylene have been showing a downward trend and Government has taken a note of the same.

Trade with Burma

5805. SHRI R. JEEVARATHINAM: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to enter into a bilateral agreement with Burmese Government with a view to improving trade of raw materials, foodgrains, agricultural products and manufactured goods, between the two countries; and

(b) if so, whether Government propose to import timber, rice etc. from against exports of manufactured goods to Burma?

THE MINISTER OF ENERGY AND MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI ARIF

MOHAMMAD KHAN): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

[*Translation*]

Proposal to Create More Post of Judges in Delhi

5806. SHRI ISHWAR CHAUDHARY: SHRI HARI SHANKAR MAHALE:

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

(a) the number of cases pending in different courts of Delhi;

(b) the action taken or proposed to be taken for expeditious disposal of these cases; and

(c) whether Government propose to create some new posts of judges to dispose of pending cases in various courts of Delhi?

THE MINISTER OF SURFACE TRANSPORT AND COMMUNICATION (SHRI K.P. UNNIKRISHNAN): (a) The number of pending cases in different courts of Delhi is as follows:

	<i>Pendency as on 31.12.1989</i>
Delhi High Court	109495
District/Addl. District and Sessions Courts	35228
Subordinate Courts	366720

(b) Various steps have been taken by the Government, from time to time, to reduce pendency of cases in the Courts. A Committee of 3 Chief Justices of High Courts has

been constituted in January, 1989 to make an in depth study of the problem of arrears in Courts and to suggest remedial measures.

(c) Yes, Sir.

[English]

Joint Current Account of Mahatma Gandhi

5807. PROF. RAM GANESH KAPSE: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the fact that the Pune Branch of the Bank of India (Maharashtra) has preserved the records relating to the joint current account of Mahatma Gandhi opened by him in 1942; and

(b) if so, the action taken or proposed to take over such rare records in safe custody as these records are of national importance?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE): (a) and (b). Bank of India has reported that its Pune Main Branch is preserving the records relating to a Joint Current Account opened by Mahatma Gandhi in January 1946. The bank has been advised to keep the records of this account in safe custody.

[Translation]

Hill Allowance to Central Government Employees

5808. SHRI M.S. PAL: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Central Government Employees working in the foothill areas of Nainital district are given hill area allowance at par with those working in Dehradun;

(b) if not, the reasons therefor when the height and geographical conditions of the foothill areas of Dehradun and Nainital district are same; and

(c) the remedial steps being taken by Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE): (a) to (c). The information is being collected.

[English]

Loans Advanced by Nationalised Banks for Construction of Leased Accommodation for their Branches

5809. BABA SUCHA SINGH: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the amount of loans advanced by the nationalised banks for construction of leased accommodation for their branches;

(b) the rate of interest charged on such advances;

(c) the criteria fixed for determining the monthly lease amount; and

(d) the reasons for acquiring leased accommodation and not having their own accommodation?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE): (a) Reserve Bank of India (RBI) have reported that the present data collecting system does not yield this information.

(b) Advances to landlords/lessors of premises are treated as term loan and as such the interest chargeable on such advances is the same as applicable to all other term loans which is presently 15% (minimum) per annum.

(c) The rent is generally fixed by the banks taking into consideration various aspects such as location of the premises, prevailing market rent in the area, facilities to be provided by the landlord, etc. and within