

Aid from U.S.A. and U.S.S.R. for Projects in Fourth Plan

***299. Shri Ramachandra Ulaka:
Shri Dhuleshwar Meena:**

Will the Minister of Finance be pleased to state:

(a) the projects under the Fourth Five Year Plan for which the Government of India have approached U.S.A. and U.S.S.R. Governments for aid; and

(b) the progress made so far in that direction?

The Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Finance (Shri Morarji Desai): (a) and (b). A list of projects under the Fourth Five Year Plan for which loan agreements have been signed so far with the Governments of U.S.A. and U.S.S.R. is laid on the Table of the House [Placed in the Library. See No. LT-268/67].

Improving of Data-Collecting Machinery

***300. Shri N. K. Somani:** Will the Minister of Finance be pleased to state:

(a) whether the statistics relating to the industrial production, economic and fiscal matters available at a given time are wholly inadequate and out of date which do not help to obtain the current situation correctly and objectively;

(b) whether there are any plans under consideration to improve the data collecting machinery and timely analysis of various trends; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

The Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Finance (Shri Morarji Desai): (a) to (c). There is no general inadequacy of statistics as such, although difficulties are sometimes encountered in certain fields. It is the constant endeavour of the Government to improve the statistical machinery and special provisions are made for the improvement of statistics under the Five Year Plans.

Punjab National Bank Ltd.

***301. Shri Abdul Ghani Dar:** Will the Minister of Finance be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Central Government have ordered an inquiry into the irregularities committed by the Directors and top officers of the Punjab National Bank Ltd;

(b) if so, when the inquiry was ordered and when it was actually held and whether any report has been submitted to Government; and

(c) the result of the inquiry?

The Minister of State in the Ministry of Finance (Shri K. C. Pant): (a) to (c) The Government decided in May, 1965 to investigate certain complaints against some officers of the Punjab National Bank. The investigations are still in progress.

Financial Aid to Meet Drought Situation in Bihar

***302. Shri Yogindra Sharma:
Shri Bhogendra Jha:
Shri Chandra Shekhar Singh:
Shrimati Tarkeshwari Sinha:**

Will the Minister of Finance be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government of Bihar have asked for special financial aid from the Centre to meet the situation created by unprecedented drought in the State;

(b) if so, the nature and extent of aid asked for; and

(c) the action taken thereon?

The Minister of State in the Ministry of Finance (Shri K. C. Pant): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c). A statement is laid on the Table of the House. [Placed in the Library. See No. LT-269/67].