

(b) if so, whether the same is also payable on pro-rata retirement benefits in respect of employees transferred on deputation and subsequently absorbed permanently in the Central Autonomous bodies; if so, the rate thereof; and

(c) whether Government have received representations from such retired employees of the various autonomous bodies for payment of interest on delayed payment of retirement benefits; if so, the details thereof and the action taken or proposed to be taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS (SHRIMATI MARGARET ALVA): (a) and (b) Interest is payable only on delayed payment of gratuity if it is clearly established that the delay in payment was attributable to administrative lapses and that the delay was not caused on account of the failure on the part of the government servant to comply with the procedures laid down for sanction of pension and gratuity. The interest is payable for the period of delay beyond three months from the date of retirement in the cases of those retiring on superannuation and for the period of delay beyond six months in other cases of retirement including those on permanent absorption to Central Autonomous Bodies. The rate of interest is 7 per cent p.a. for the period of delay beyond 3 months and upto one year and at 10 per cent p.a. for the period beyond one year.

(c) The system of sanction and payment of pension operates on a decentralised basis. Similarly decisions for payment of interest on delayed payment of gratuity are also taken on a decentralised basis with the approval of the Secretary of the Ministry/Department concerned. The approval of the Department of Pension and Pensioners' Welfare is not required for payment of interest. The representations received by the Department in this regard are sent in original to the authorities concerned for disposal. Details thereof are not centrally maintained.

Compensation Package, for surplus Workers

3229. DR. BAPU KALDATE; Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state;

(a) whether it is a fact that Government are trying to work out compensation package for retrenchment of surplus workers;

(b) whether it is also a fact that special bonds for retrenchment staff proposed; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS (SHRIMATI MARGARET ALVA): (a) to (c) Central Government servants who are declared surplus are redeployed in suitable posts under the existing Scheme for Deployment of Surplus Staff. They are also entitled to seek voluntary retirement under the existing rules. No new scheme of compensation package or special bonds is being worked out in this regard.

Trend of joining Civil Services by Engineers and Doctors

3230. SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA; Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state;

(a) whether it is a fact that, of late, trend of joining the civil services by Engineers and doctors has been picking up;

(b) whether any study has been made to know the number of Engineers and