

(c) what are the conclusions/recommendations of the said expert committee; and

(d) whether the said committee has recommended mass retrenchment to protect the then Manager (Personnel) against whom 'Indian Observer' dated the 31st March, 1986 had levelled charge of receiving 'recruitment fees' of rupees 5 to 10 thousand per appointment?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES (SHRI D. L. BAITHA):

(a) The new management has been making efforts to revitalise the NCCF. A series of economy measures have been introduced to reduce its establishment costs and there has been reduction in losses. However, on business front, the response has yet to come from the organisation.

(b) There is no such thing as one stating being prized as against the others as far as the operations of NCCF are concerned. The officers have been transferred for administrative expediency and given postings keeping in view the availability of the officers in the respective grades.

(c) Reference to said expert committee is not connected or clear. Hence no response can be made.

(d) No. Sir. On a fresh inquiry, the concerned Manager has been shown prima facie responsible for lapses in the recruitment during the period from 1983 to 1985 and his case has been referred to the Central Vigilance Commission for their advice.

Date of application for appointment of Joint Tax Auditors of NCCF

2676. SHRI KAILASH PATI MISHRA: Will the Minister of FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that M/s. K. K. Goel and Associates were appointed as Joint Tax Auditors of NCCF

for 1986-87 in June, 1987 pursuant to a formal application by them;

(b) if so, what was the date of application; and

(c) the details thereof?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES (SHRI D. L. BAITHA):

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) The date of application was 20th May, 1987. In the application M/s. K. K. Goel & Associates had indicated their qualifications and past experience and had requested the NCCF to give them the work relating to tax audit for 1986-87.

Stoppage of Allotment of Houses by Directorate of Estates

2677. SHRI PARVATHANENI UPENDRA: Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Directorate of Estates have stopped allotting houses to some Government offices during the current year on the ground that they should create a pool of their own;

(b) if so, the names of those offices which have created their own separate pool during the current year;

(c) whether the Directorate of Estates intend to place quarters of various types at the disposal of these offices so as to meet their requirements of accommodation for their staff; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI DALBIR SINGH):

(a) to (d) During the current year, only the allotment of general Pool accommodation to the employees of the Rajya Sabha Secretariat has been

stopped w.e.f. 12.5.88 as a separate pool of accommodation comprising general pool houses already in occupation of the Rajya Sabha Secretariat employees has been created. No other separate pool has been created this year.

Water and Electricity connections to M.S. flats in Baba Kharak Singh Marg, New Delhi

2678. SHRI VISHWASRAO RAM-RAO PATIL: Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the servant quarters for the use of allottees of Multi-storeyed flats, Baba Kharak Singh Marg, New Delhi where Members of Parliament are also residing are ready for use;

(b) whether it is also a fact that the connection of water and electricity are yet to be given to these quarters; and

(c) if so, when these quarters are likely to be ready for handing over to the Directorate of Estates, New Delhi and for allotment to the allottees?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI DALBIR SINGH): (a) and (b) Yes.

(c) The quarters will be handed over to the Directorate of Estates after the water and electricity connections are provided by the New Delhi Municipal Committee.

U.S. Grants to increase Food Productivity

2679. SHRI SURESH PACHOURI: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Department of Agriculture of United States has announced six research grants for pur-

chase to support increased food productivity in India;

(b) whether Madhya Pradesh got worth Rs. 1,97,130/- grants from U.S.; and

(c) if so, what are the areas where this loan is likely to be utilised by Madhya Pradesh?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH AND EDUCATION IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HARI KRISHNA SHASTRI): (a) During the year 1987-88, 34 research projects were sanctioned by USDA to support increased food productivity in India.

(b) Grants worth Rs. 19,71,000/- were sanctioned by USDA to Bhopal University. Bhopal for the implementation of a research project entitled "General Survey", systematics and the biology of fresh water prawns of Bhopal and Hoshangabad districts with special reference to the culture management of *Macrobrachium Rosenbergi* etc.

(c) These grants will be utilised in Bhopal and Hoshangabad districts of Madhya Pradesh.

Impact of strip mining on environment

2680. DR. YELAMANCHILI SIVAJI: Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have made a study of the extent of strip mining, if any, in the country and its impact on environment; and

(b) if so, what are the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI MAKHAN LAL FOTEDAR): (a) and (b) Strip mining which is essentially opencast mining of coal, lignite and other minerals