

Jorhat is not included in the above list consequently the Government of India employees in Jorhat are not eligible for house rent allowance.

CSIR follows Government of India in this regard.*

Regional Research Laboratory, Jorhat

1817. SHRI PRITHIBI MAJHI. Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the employees of the Regional Research Laboratory, Jorhat, are not being paid 25 per cent special duty allowance admissible as per standing orders of the Finance Ministry; and

(b) if so, what are the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF ATOMIC ENERGY, ELECTRONICS, SPACE AND OCEAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI SHIVRAJ PATIL): (a) While some categories of employee? Who are truly belonging to the common CSIR cadre and who are transferred from time to time between Laboratories/Institutes are eligible for the allowance, other employees working in Regional Research Laboratory, Jorhat, are not paid 25 per cent special duty allowance. These eligible common cadres are Administration, Finance and Accounts Stores and Purchase, etc. The practice is as followed in Government of India.

(b) The special duty allowance is given to those categories who are transferred to different institutions and headquarters of CSIR in various parts of the country. Officers who are in this way transferred and are attached to Regional Research Laboratory, Jorhat, do not qualify for this allowance. The principles followed are similar to those adopted in Government of India.

Visual Pollution

1818. SHRI SURESH PACHOURI: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal under Government's consideration to regulate air and sound pollution by vehicles; if so, the details thereof;

(b) whether it is a fact that apart from air, water and sound pollution, visual pollution also constitutes immense hazard for urban environment and traffic operation;

(c) whether there is any proposal under Government's consideration to check this; and

(d) if so, what are the details in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI VIR SEN): (a) Yes Sir. The following steps have been taken:

(i) Inclusion of necessary provisions in the Motor Vehicles Rules for enforcement of inspection and Control measures has been communicated to the State Governments having metropolitan cities.

(ii) Dissemination of information on ways of better maintenance and driving to reduce pollution and for fuel conservation.

(iii) Formulation of emission standards in respect of different categories of vehicles.

(iv) Certificates of fitness for fifteen year old vehicles.

(v) Progressive reduction of lead content in motor spirit.

(vi) Public awareness campaigns to sensitize public opinion.

(vii) In regard to sound pollution by vehicles, enabling provisions in Municipal Acts exist.