

(b) if so, whether it is a fact that the orders have been modified by the Ministry of Finance ignoring the above fact and granted advance increments to all those Ex-ECOs/SSCOs who joined the Public Sector Banks upto 26th August, 1981;

(c) if so, whether it is also a "fact" that in Public Sector Undertakings/ para-military forces, Ex-ECOs/SSCOs are still being granted advanced increments irrespective of their date of joining; and

(d) if so, what are the reasons for the non-extension of these modified orders in public sector banks?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) According to the instructions Issued by the Government to the public sector banks, the banks may grant advance increments to all Ex-Emergency Commissioned Officers/Short Service Commissioned Officers (Ex-ECOs/SSCOs) who joined Public Sector Banks upto, 24th August, 1981.

(c) and (d) The information is being collected and to the extent available and permissible under the rules will be laid on the Table of the House.

Payments against lost bank drafts

1022. SHRI JERLIE E. TARIANG: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) what procedure is adopted by the nationalised banks in making payments to the customers where bank drafts are lost by the banks themselves;

(b) whether Government are aware that recently some drafts issued by foreign banks and remitted to various branches of Canara Bank in New Delhi for payment, have been lost by the bank itself and the parties were asked to get duplicate copies thereof from the foreign banks which issued these drafts;

(c) if so, what are the reasons for not taking initiative in this regard by

the bank itself instead of asking the parties to get duplicate copies of the drafts;

(d) whether Government propose to make any inquiry into the matter; if so, by when and if not, what are the reasons therefor; and

(e) what other remedial measures Government propose to take in the matter?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY): (a) According to Reserve Bank of India, the duplicate of bankers drafts is issued by banks only on the application of the purchaser thereof. Any other person cannot be considered a lawful claimant for a duplicate without the intervention of the purchaser. Further, no bank can be compelled to issue a duplicate of a lost instrument without proof of non-delivery to the named payee and proper identification.

Reserve Bank of India have, now and ever, on the recommendations of the Working Group on Customer Service in Banks, advised all the banks that duplicate draft in lieu of lost draft upto and including Rs. 2500/- may be issued to purchaser on the basis of adequate indemnity and without insistence on seeking non-payment advice from drawee office. The drawee office is, however, to be cautioned in this regard.

(b) to (e) It is difficult to ascertain the facts in the absence of full details of the lost drafts referred to in the question. The matter can be looked into in case any specific instance is brought to the notice of Government.

Filling up of vacancies in the Bank of India, Bombay

1023. SHRI M. RAJAGOPAL: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether some senior officials of Bank of India, Bombay have either resigned or gone on long leave preparatory to retirement during the recent past: