

(c) what are the names of the physically handicapped persons in receipt of pay of less than Rs. 2000 p.m., whose requests have been rejected for import of such cars in spite of the fact that they are using vehicles allotted to them from the Government of India quota for the last 15 years or more and have also furnished medical certificates twice as demanded by the Ministry of Finance;

(d) what are the grounds for rejection of each case and what are the reasons for not informing the grounds of rejection to the physically handicapped persons; and

(e) what is the number of applications for review, pending disposed of and rejected as on the 1st March, 1983?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI PATTABHI RAMA RAO); (a) to (c) The nature of the disability, need for importing special disability car and the financial position of the importer to purchase and maintain the car are the criteria taken into account for considering the requests for import of disability control cars imported by disabled persons at concessional rate of duty. These cases are considered on ad hoc basis under Section 25(2) of the Customs Act, 1962. For this purpose the income criterion is not fixed at Rs. 2000 per month, more or less. There is, therefore, no verified information available in respect of total number of handicapped persons who were granted exemption and who were having income of less than Rs. 2,000 per month. Similarly, no data is available in respect of persons who are using vehicles allotted to them from the Government of India quota for the last 15 years or more as that information was not relevant.

(d) The Government declared the policy for import of disability control cars in July, 1982. In the press Note issued at that time, various criteria on the basis of which the applications were to be considered were indicated. The criteria are the nature of the disability, the need for importing the

car and the financial position of the importer to purchase and maintain the car. The cases which do not come up to the criteria are rejected. The aggrieved person could always come up to the Government for reconsideration of his case.

(e) As on 1st March, 1983, 1452 persons have applied for exemption on disability cars. Out of these cases, 201 exemption orders have been issued and 115 applications have been rejected. At present the policy of grant of exemption on the disability cars is under review.

Currency and Contraband Goods Seized by Customs

1685. SHRI P. BABUL REDDY: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the value of Indian and foreign currency seized by customs during the year 1982;

(b) the value of contraband goods seized during the year, 1982; and

(c) the expenditure incurred on the machinery deployed for the purpose?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI PATTABHI, RAMA RAO); (a) and (b). During 1982, the Customs authorities seized smuggled goods valued at about Rs. 65.89 crores including Indian currency amounting to about Rs. 1.27 crores and foreign currency equivalent to about Rs. 1.65 crores.

(c) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Occupancy Rate in I.T.D.C. Hotels

1686. SHRI P. BABUL REDDY: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state;

(a) what was the occupancy rate in I.T.D.C. hotels in New Delhi during the year 1982, quarter-wise;

(b) whether any efforts are being made to improve the occupancy rate;

(c) what was the percentage of occupancy by foreign nationals; and

(d) what was the minimum and maximum room/suite charges in these hotels as on 1st January, 1982 and 1st January, 1983?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI KHURSHED ALAM KHAN): (a) A statement giving the requisite information is at Annexure (See Appendix CXXV, Annexure No. 72).

(b) Yes, Sir. The steps taken to increase the occupancy rate include adoption of a three dimensional marketing approach at corporate, regional and unit levels, appropriate tariff and discount policy, intensification of marketing and sales promotion efforts, setting up of ITDC's own travel agency, etc.

(c) A statement showing the percentage of occupancy by foreigners in ITDC hotels in New Delhi during 1982 is at Annexure (See Appendix CXXV, Annexure No. 72).

(d) The requisite information is at Annexure (See Appendix CXXV No. 72).

Demands of Central Government Employees

1687. SHRI GHULAM RASOOL MATTO: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have recently received a memorandum from the Central Government employees relating to their salaries, allowances etc.; and

(b) if so, what are their main demands and what is Government's decision thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI PATABHI RAMA RAO): (a) and (b) No formal Memorandum has been received

by the Government from the Central Government employees relating to* their salaries, allowances etc. However, there are Press reports and Hand-bills to show that they have been asking for settlement of their demands like interim relief of Rs. 150 p.m., release of Dearness Allowance instalments, increase in H.R.A. and CCA., etc.

The appointment of Fourth Central Pay Commission has since been announced in Finance Minister's Budget Speech for the year 1983-84 on 28-2-1983. The terms of reference of the Pay Commission will be announced as soon as possible after consulting the representatives of the employees.

Development of Tourist Centres in Bihar

1688. SHRI GHULAM RASOOL MATTO: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) the places which were proposed to be developed as tourist centres in Bihar during the last three years;

(b) the year in which each project was approved;

(c) the year in which the work was commenced; and

(d) by when the projects are likely to be completed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI KHURSHED ALAM KHAN): (a) to (d) In the Sixth Five Year Plan, the following schemes have been taken up for development of tourism in Bihar;

(a) The Central Department of Tourism has sanctioned during 1982-83 opening of a Government of India Tourist Office at Patna headed by a Director.

(b) Construction of a Youth Hostel at Patna sanctioned in January