

Compensatory allowance to Central Government Employees at Simla

1452. SHRIMATI USHA MALHOTRA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Central Government of India had granted to Himachal Pradesh Government Employees when Himachal Pradesh was a Union Territory compensatory allowance @ 30 per cent for Class III and 50 per cent for Class IV posted at Simla town; and

(b) if so, what are the reasons for denying the Central Government Employees posted at Simla compensatory allowance at the same rates?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI SAWAISINGH SISODIA): (a) Information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House as early as possible.

(b) Central Government employees posted at Simla are at present getting Hill Compensatory Allowance at rates which correspond to 'A' Class rates of Compensatory (City) Allowance. Under the existing policy, in places where Hill Compensatory Allowance is payable, Compensatory (City) Allowance is not payable in addition.

Divisional Officers of LIC

1453. SHRI ARABINDA GHOSH: "Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Divisional Officers working under LIC are going to be rendered surplus for administrative reasons; and

(b) if not, what steps Government propose to bring these officers under permanent establishment?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY): (a) :No, Sir.

(b) The Divisional Managers are already on the permanent cadre of the LIC.

Agitation by the employees of the Defence Accountg Department

1454. SHRI NAND KISHORE BHATT: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the employees of Defence Accounts Department under the control of the Ministry of Finance are on agitation in Delhi on the question of suspension of their union leaders; and

(b) if so, what action Government propose to take in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI SAWAISINGH SISODIA): (a) and (b) Consequent on the suspension, by the competent authority, of an employee, some employees in one of the offices of the Department staged a demonstration on 8-7-1982. Some employees in the same office also resorted to slogan shouting during lunch hours from 9th July to 17th July, 1982.

The case relating to the suspension of the employee is being processed under the relevant rules.

Restoration of commuted portion of pension

1455. DR. SARUP SINGH: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state;

(a) whether there is any proposal under Government's consideration to restore the commuted portion of the pension to the pensioners on attaining the age of seventy as has been done by the Governments of Punjab and Haryana for their pensioners; and

(b) if not, what are the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI SAWAISINGH SISODIA):

(a) No, Sir.

(b) Commutation of pension is an optional facility available to a retiring Government servant. The commuted value of pension is based on the expected life-span of Central Government pensioners. The choice of commutation of a portion of pension for a lump-sum payment on retirement as against a life-time's benefit of full pension involves risk for both the parties—the pensioner as well as the Government. If the pensioner dies earlier than the normal life expectancy, the Government loses while if the pensioner outlives that period, it is he who loses. It is, therefore, not proposed to restore the commuted portion of pension after a certain age. Central Government does not follow the practice of the State Governments in this matter.

International Monetary Fund

1456. SHRI HARVENDRA SINGH HANSPAL; Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state;

(a) whether he has written to the International Monetary Fund regarding loan arrangements for the year 1982-83;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof; and

(c) what is the reaction of international Monetary Fund in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) to (c) The Finance Minister has already made a Statement in both the Houses of Parliament on India's Extended Arrangement—Programme for the Second Year (1982/83) on July 13, 1982.

Income tax evasion by M/s. Rajan & Co. of Delhi

1457. SHRI RAM BHAGAT PAS-WAN: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state;

(a) whether Government are aware that M/s. Rajan & Co. 645, Shardhan-and Marg, Delhi-6 and the owners of

the Firm have been evading the payment of income-tax for the last many years; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI SAWAI SINGH SISODIA): (a) and (b) M/s. Rajan & Co. 645, Shardhanand Marg, Delhi-6 had filed its return of income for the assessment year 1981-82 on 31st August, 1981. The Firm's taxability for the earlier years will be duly examined during the course of assessment proceedings.

More Funds for Thein Dam Project

1458. SHRI HARVENDRA SINGH HANSPAL; Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state;

(a) whether Punjab Government has approached him for more funds, for the Thein Dam project;

(b) if so, what are the details in this regard; and

(c) what is the outcome of the discussions held with the Punjab Chief Minister in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) and (b) The Chief Minister, Punjab had requested the Finance Minister to convey his agreement in principle for sponsoring the Thein Dam project for World Bank assistance.

(c) In order to consider the suitability of the project for posing to the World Bank Group for assistance, action has been initiated for obtaining material from the concerned Technical and Administrative Departments,