

**Housing and other facilities for employees working in the I.T.D.C., Tourist Centres and Government Hotels**

1754. SHRI SHRIDHAR WASU-DEO DHABE:

SHRI ARVIND GANESH KULKARNI:

Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) the details of facilities in respect of (i) housing and (ii) children's education that have been made available to the employees including officers working in ITDC, Government Hotels, and Tourist Centres all over the country during the last one year;

(b) whether the employees have made any demands in this regard; if so, what are the details thereof; and

(c) whether there is any proposal under Government's consideration to meet the demands of these employees?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI A. P. SHARMA): (a) The ITDC is helping its employees by providing House Building Loan for construction/purchase of houses/flats. During 1980-81, a provision of Rs. 20 lakhs was made on this account. Out of this, about Rs. 17 lakhs has been disbursed upto 28.2.1981.

In addition, the employees are entitled to House Rent Allowance as per ITDC rules.

The employees have also formed a Housing Society namely, Paryatan Vihar Cooperative Group Housing Society Ltd., Delhi which is duly registered and has 1400 members. Efforts are being made to secure allotment of land from DDA.

As regards facility of children's education, the ITDC has adopted the scheme of the Central Government in respect of its employees.

(b) and (c) There has been a general demand from the employees for provision of staff quarters but the ITDC rules permit only the admissible House Rent Allowance.

Information pertaining to the Hotel Corporation of India is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the Sabha.

**Discovery of Mineral Deposits in Thar Desert**

1755. SHRI HARVENDAR SINGH HANSPAL: Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that huge deposits of potash, rock-salt, tungsten, lead and zinc have been found by Indian geologists under the Thar desert;

(b) if so, whether any proper assessment of the minerals has since been made; and

(c) what is the estimated value and the export potential thereof?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND STEEL AND MINES (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) and (b) Huge deposits only of rock-salt at places containing minor amounts of potash minerals have so far been located in the Churu-Bikaner districts of Rajasthan. Occurrences of tungsten and deposits of lead and zinc minerals have also been located in Rajasthan but they are not in the Thar desert region.

(c) value and the export potential of the deposits can be worked out only after completion of the investigations.

**Financial help to Punjab**

1756. SHRI HARVENDAR SINGH HANSPAL: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Government of Punjab have approached the Central Government for immediate financial help to save their prestigious power and other plants;

(b) if so, what is the reaction of the Central Government in the matter; and

(c) whether it is also a fact that the State Government are being allowed to avail of financial help in this context from abroad especially from U.S.S.R.?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI SAWAISINGH SISODIA): (a) The Government of Punjab approached the Centre for special financial arrangements for expediting work on the Thein Dam Project.

(b) The Government of India is aware of the importance attached to the project by the State Government, but it is felt that there are other projects in the State in advanced stages of completion, which, if adequately funded will start yielding benefits soon. The Centre has advised the Punjab Government not to spread the available resources thinly over a large number of projects.

(c) There is no proposal at present for availing of foreign assistance for any of the power projects in Punjab.

#### Promotion Avenues in R. B. I.

1757. SHRI SWAMI DINESH CHANDRA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that at certain head offices and branches of the Reserve Bank of India, employees are promoted as staff officers Grade 'A' in a couple of years time while at some others there is total stagnation;

(b) if so, whether the Reserve Bank proposes to have region-wise seniority in the matter of promotion of clerical staff as staff officer grade 'A';

(c) whether the Reserve Bank of India also proposes some other method to ensure that equality of opportunity in the matter of promotion is granted to its employees; if so, what are the details thereof; and

(d) what steps have been taken by the Bank to ensure that the officers transferred actually proceed on transfer instead of seeking reversion with a

view to continue to remain at the centre of posting?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI MAGANBHAI BAROT): (a) The time taken for promotion of Grade III employees as staff officers Grade 'A' is different in various offices of Reserve Bank of India as the vacancies are filled on office-wise basis.

(b) There is presently no proposal to have region-wise seniority.

(c) The Bank has already undertaken consultation on this question with the employees' associations.

(d) The transfer orders where issued are enforced by the bank unless there are compelling reasons of genuine personal hardship to the concerned officer.

#### Restriction imposed on the Export of white pomfrets

1758. SHRI MURLIDHAR CHANDRAKANT BHANDARE: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any restriction imposed on the export of white pomfrets;

(b) if so, what are the reasons therefor; and

(c) whether Government are aware that such restrictions are adversely affecting the foreign exchange earnings of the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI KHURSHED ALAM KHAN): (a) Yes, Sir The export of white pomfrets of sizes less than 300 grams is not allowed. Export of white pomfrets of sizes 300 grams and above but less than 500 grams is subject to quota restrictions. The export of white pomfrets of sizes 500 grams and above is allowed on OGL basis.

(b) Restrictions on exports of white pomfrets have been imposed to ensure better unit value realisation and also to cater to domestic demand.

(c) The restrictions have not had any adverse effect on our foreign exchange earnings. During calendar