

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

India's assistance to other countries

*25. SHRI LADLI MOHAN
NIGAM:
SHRI B. SATYANARAYAN
REDDY:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that while India's borrowings have been steadily rising, the assistance extended by India to other countries has been substantially on the increase;

(b) if so, what is the quantum of assistance given by India to other countries (with names) during the years 1976-77 to 1980-81; and

(c) what is the extent to which India's lendings to other countries have affected the country's development programmes?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI PRANAB KUMAR MUKHERJEE): (a) While India's borrowings have been rising in recent to meet the large developmental needs of the country, its assistance to other countries, which is a fraction of India's external borrowing, has not increased recently.

(b) A statement is laid on the Table of the House. [See Appendix CXXI, Annexure No. 2].

(c) While it is true that this assistance involves a measure of sacrifice on our part, it has to be remembered that it is provided to friendly countries some of whom are close neighbours. To the extent the assistance is provided to enable these countries to obtain goods and services from India, it also promotes our exports. India has been lending to friendly foreign countries mainly with a view to helping them obtain goods and services from India.

Payment of Dearness Allowance Instalments to Central Government Employees

*26. SHRI S. KUMARAN:
SHRI KALRAJ MISHRA:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether an agreement was reached between Government and representatives of Central Government employees (Joint Consultative Machinery) on question of payment of three D.A. instalments to Central Government employees which fell due and also to merge some percentage of dearness allowance with basic pay;

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

(c) whether it is a fact that Government propose not to make payment of arrears of all the three instalments of dearness allowance in cash and to deposit the same in Provident Fund of Central Government employees and to make payment of these dearness allowance instalments in cash only after some time; if so, what are details thereof and reasons therefor; and

(d) what is Government's policy about payment of future instalments of dearness allowance, house rent and city compensatory allowances arising out of merger of certain percentage of dearness allowance with basic pay of these employees?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI SAWAI SINGH SISODIA): (a) and (b) At a meeting held with the representatives of the Staff Side of the National Council of JCM, discussions were held with regard to their demand for merger of DA upto average index level 344 with pay for various purposes. There have been differences amongst the representatives of the Staff Side. Discussions in this regard have not been concluded.

(c) The dearness allowance is sanctioned to the employees under a scheme based on the recommendations of the Third Pay Commission, as modified from time to time. The release of a specific instalment of dearness allowance is decided by the Government taking into consideration various factors. A proposal for payment of arrears of Dearness Allowance instalments which became due for consideration with effect from 1-8-1981, 1-10-1981 and 1-11-1981 into the Provident Fund Accounts of the employees is being discussed with the representatives of the Staff Side of the National Council (JCM). No final view has emerged so far.

(d) With regard to the release of future instalment of dearness allowance, Government policy continues to be that this matter is specifically considered every time an instalment falls due in the light of various factors affecting such a decision. With regard to the payment of house rent allowance and CCA arising out of merger of certain percentage of dearness allowance in future, this would be considered at the appropriate time.

Imports of Cars for Asian Games

*27. SHRI SATYA PAL MALIK:
SHRI RAMESHWAR SINGH:

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

(a) whether it is a fact that Government propose to import more than one hundred cars for the Asian Games; if so, what are the details thereof and the cost involved in this regard; and

(b) whether it is also a fact that an ITDC Committee consisting of non-technical men recently visited France, West Germany and other countries to make technical evaluation of the cars to be imported and if so, what are the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI A. P. SHARMA): (a) A proposal for the import of cars by the Indian Tourism Development Corporation is under consideration of the Government.

(b) A team of two officers of ITDC comprising the Divisional Manager (Tourist Services) and Joint Divisional Manager (Commercial), was deputed in October/November, 1981, to visit West Germany, France and Japan to assess the comparative merits and demerits of various makes of cars as also to carry out commercial and technical negotiations with the various car manufacturers with a view to selecting the most suitable and economical car(s) for operating under Indian conditions.

Import of Coconut Oil, Copra and Rubber

*28. SHRI O. J. JOSEPH:
SHRI K. CHATHUNNI MASTER:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that the prices of coconut and natural rubber have decreased considerably because of the indiscriminate import of coconut oil, copra and rubber; and

(b) what are the quantities of coconut oil, copra and rubber imported during the year 1981-82?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PATIL): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Commodity-wise import statistics for 1981-82 have not yet been compiled.

Charter of Demands of Central Excise Executive Officers' Federation

*29. SHRI KALRAJ MISHRA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to refer to the answer to Starred Question 38 given in the Rajya Sabha on the 24th November, 1981 and state: