

Rajya Sabha on the 9th March, 1982 and state:

(a) what are the recommendations of the DagU Committee which have been accepted by Government and are under implementation;

(b) what are the recommendations of the Committee which have been rejected by Government and what are the reasons for the rejection; and

(c) what is the time limit within which the accepted recommendations are likely to be implemented?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI PRANAB KUMAR MUKHERJEE): (a) to (c) The Report of the Dagli Committee on Contro's and Subsidies is under the consideration of Government and further action is being taken at the appropriate level.

#### **Expert Committee regarding Reforms in Sales-Tax structure**

2465. SHRI SYED SHAIABUDDIN: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to refer to the answer to Unstarred Question 2052 given in the Rajya Sabha on the 15th December, 1981 and state:

(a) whether the Expert Committee regarding reforms in sales-tax structure has since been constituted;

(b) what are the terms of reference of the Committee;

(c) what is the composition of the Committee; and

(d) the time-limit within which the Committee has been asked to submit its recommendations?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI SAWAISINGH SISODIA): (a) to (d) Yes, Sir. An Expert Committee was set up under the Chairmanship of Shri Mohan Lai Sukhadia, M.P., and with Dr. P. H. Prasad, Professor of Economics, Anugrah Narain

Sinha Institute of Social Studies, Patna, as an Economist Member and Shri N. V. Krishnan, presently Joint Secretary in the Ministry of Finance as 'Administrative Member and Member-

Secretary, to study the financial implications of the proposal for inclusion in the list of declared goods and for levy of additional excise duty in lieu of sales-tax on vanaspati, drugs and medicines, cement, paper and paper board and petroleum products and the manner in which the financial interests of the States can be safeguarded. An announcement regarding the appointment of the Committee was also made in the House on 21-12-1981.

In view of the sudden and untimely demise of Shri Sukhadia, Shri Kamla-pati Tripathi, MP. has been appointed as Chairman of the Committee. A statement in this regard was also made by the Finance Minister in the House on 1-3-1982.

The terms of reference of the Committee are as follows:—

(i) to study the financial implications of the proposal for inclusion in the list of declared goods and for levy of additional excise duty in lieu of sales tax on vanaspati, drugs and medicines, cement, paper and paper board and petroleum products and the manner in which the financial interests of the States can be safeguarded;

(ii) to suggest necessary changes in the relevant Central and State tax laws to give effect to the Committee's recommendation; and

(iii) to make recommendations regarding any other related matter.

The Committee is to submit its report by 30th June, 1982.

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#### **Home Rent Allowance In HPT**

2488. SHRI N. G. TOMPOK SINGH: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the rate of house rent allowance in the Indian Institute of Foreign Trade is only 20 per cent as compared to 30 per cent in the other public sector undertakings under the Ministry of Commerce;

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

(c) whether there is any proposal to increase the rate of house rent allowance of the employees of Indian Institute of Foreign Trade also to 30 per cent; and

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

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. A. SANGMA): (a) to (d) The Indian Institute of Foreign Trade (IIFT) is not a public sector undertaking but has been set up under the Societies Registration Act, 1957. It is an autonomous body and is a grantee institution<sup>1</sup> receiving recurring grants to the extent of about 75 per cent of their total expenditure from the Government of India. The Government allows 15 per cent House Rent Allowance (HRA) to its employees in A Class cities. As per the rules of the Government, employees of autonomous organisations are allowed HRA 5 per cent more than the rate as admissible in the case of Central Government employees provided the satisfaction in respect of accommodation made available by the autonomous body concerned to its employees is 5 per cent or less. In view of this, the HRA to the IIFT employee\* has been allowed at 20 per cent since the Institute also satisfy the above consideration. Other grantee organisations under the administrative control of this Ministry are also giving HRA to their employees at 20 per cent.

1.1. The Government had considered a proposal to increase the HRA for the employees of the IIFT to 30 per cent but the proposal was not agreed to for the reasons as explained above.

2467. [Transferred to the 26th March, 1982]

#### **Reduction of air fare for passengers travelling between Calcutta and Port Blair**

2468. SHRI SWAMI DIKESH CHANDRA: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to refer to the answer to Unstarred Question 3081 given by the Minister of Shipping and Transport in the Rajya Sabha on the 18th September, 1981 and State:

(a) whether Government propose to fix air fare at low level for passengers travelling between Calcutta and Port Blair to assist the development of the Andaman and Nicobar Islands as has been done by the Shipping Corporation of India in respect of passengers travelling by the Ship "MV Harshavardhana" between these two places; and

(b) if the answer to part (a) above is in the negative, what are the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI A. P. SHARMA): (a) and (b) On the normal passenger fares on the sector Calcutta/Port Blair/Calcutta, Indian Airlines already offers a discount of Rs. 100/- each way for family travel. Because of the high operating cost, it would be difficult to offer any further discount on this sector.

#### **Rebate on air fare for travel on LTC**

2469. SHRI SWAMI DINESH CHANDRA: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to refer to the answer to