

Besides, an officer has an edge over a Class II employee in various other areas like medical, conveyance, housing facilities etc.

2 Class I Officers have, however, been demanding the removal of anomalies on a stage-to-stage basis. Keeping their various demands in view, the Management of the LIC has recently offered concrete proposals for the revision of pay scales etc., which contain substantial improvements over the existing pay scales and other terms and conditions of service.

Prices of essential commodities in Gujarat

2406. PROF. RAMLAL PARIKH: Will the Minister of CIVIL SUPPLIES be pleased to state:

(a) what were the prices of essential commodities, commodity wise and month-wise in Gujarat in 1980;

(b) what were the measures taken by the Central Government to control the prices of these commodities or rendering assistance to State Government to control the increasing prices; and

(c) to what extent these measures have succeeded?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL SUPPLIES (SHRI BRAJ MOHAN MOHANTY):

(a) A Statement showing retail prices of selected commodities since January, 1980 in Ahmedabad is given in Annexure.

(b) and (c) The main thrust of the Government policy is to increase production of various essential commodities, particularly of commodities in short supply. The public distribution system is being expanded and streamlined. Credit policy continues to be restrictive. The export of essential commodities is being regulated, while some essential commodities in short supply are being imported. From time to time, Union Government has been stressing on the State Governments to vigorously implement the provisions of the Essential Commodi-

ties Act, 1955 and the orders issued under it as well as Prevention of Blackmarketing and Maintenance of Supplies of Essential Commodities Act, 1980.

The State Government of Gujarat has strengthened the public distribution system and is implementing strictly various orders issued under the Essential Commodities Act. Shopkeepers have been instructed to exhibit prices of commodities and stock position. A scheme has been made for distribution of essential commodities such as soaps, matches, soda ash, cloth at reasonable rates through fair price shops.

As a result of these measures during the past few weeks there has been some moderation in the overall price situation. [See Appendix CXVL. Annexure No. 142]

Construction of a Forest lodge at Mudumalai in Tamil Nadu

2407. SHRI CHANDALAVADA VENKATARAO:
SHRI V. GOPALSAMY:

Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state whether Government propose to construct a Forest lodge at Mudumalai in Tamil Nadu?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI A. P. SHARMA): No, Sir.

Export targets for 1980-81

2408. SHRI VIREN J. SHAH: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that India's export target has not been encouraging during the first two quarters of this year;

(b) if so, what are the comparative figures in this regard for this year and that of last year; and