

(e) whether Government propose to revise the rates; and if so, what are the details in this regard and if not, what are the reasons therefor?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI MAGANBHAI BAROT): (a) to (e) The existing rates of Daily Allowance, which are based on the recommendations of the Third Pay Commission, are applicable from 1-6-1974. A further improvement in these rates was effected from 1-2-1978 on the recommendations of a Task Force set up for simplification/rationalisation of rules, by which the higher rates of daily allowance applicable at Bombay/Calcutta were made admissible at all 'A' Class cities and Delhi/Simla rates at all 'B1' Class cities. The rates of T.A. (Road Mileage Allowance) were last revised w.e.f. 29-6-1979. The rates of T.A. and D.A. are not linked with price index as such, though the general rise in prices is borne in mind by the Government while revising these rates. Even a moderate increase in the rates of daily allowance involves heavy financial implications. Having regard to the difficult resources position, there is no proposal under consideration of the Government for upward revision of the rates of T.A. and D.A.

Abolition of octroi duty

1270. SHRI IBRAHIM KALANIYA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a number of Committees and study teams had been appointed in connection with the abolition of octroi duty by the Central Government;

(b) if so, what are the salient points made in various reports and recommendations of the said committees and study teams; and

(c) what action has so far been taken by Government in this regard?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI MAGANBHAI BAROT): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) All the Committees etc. have highlighted the negative features of octroi and generally recommended its abolition or replacement by other taxes or imposts. They have also felt that by and large octroi impedes the smooth flow of traffic, hinders the growth of commerce and gives rise to petty corruption and abuses etc.

(c) The Central Government had examined the question in 1979. It was felt that abolition of octroi lies wholly within the fiscal jurisdiction of the States. The Central Government had held discussions with the State Governments to evolve a co-ordinated policy with regard to abolition of octroi and devising of suitable measures to make good the resulting loss in revenue. By and large the local bodies were averse to giving up of this source of revenue. The State Governments also generally were not prepared to bear the burden involved in compensating the local bodies. There was also no unanimity about the measures to be adopted to recoup the losses by tapping other sources of revenue. Having regard to all relevant circumstances Central Government informed the States in August 1979 that in the context of the financial situation any sacrifice of revenue by the Centre or the States could not be contemplated however desirable abolition of octroi may be. The question of abolition of octroi was thus deferred.

Auction of property of Maharaja Yashwant Rao Holker in London

1271. SHRI BHOLA PRASAD: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that recently furniture and other items belonging to late Maharaja Yashwant Rao Holker of Indore were auctioned in London by one Sotheby (auctioners) for Rs. 8 crores;

(b) if so, whether the amount has been transferred to India by his successors; and

(c) if so, what are the details in this regard?