

Merger of D.A. with pay of Government Employees

117. SHRI DHARAMCHAND JAIN: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) what were the recommendations of the Third Pay Commission with regard to merger of D.A. with pay;

(b) whether it is a fact that Government had accepted the recommendation;

(c) whether it is also a fact that Government have not implemented the recommendation so far;

(d) what are the reasons therefor; and

(e) by when Government propose to implement the recommendation?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI R. VENKATARAMAN): (a) to (e) The Third Pay Commission had not made any specific recommendation regarding merger of D.A. with pay of Central Government employees. They considered that the question whether a portion of dearness allowance should be treated as pay for specified purposes should continue to be decided by the Government having regard to various considerations. Accordingly, as a result of an agreement reached with the Staff Side of the National Council (Joint Consultative Machinery), the Government decided to treat dearness allowance at index average level of 272 as dearness pay for the purpose of retirement benefits in the case of Government servants who retired on or after 30-9-77. A similar modified benefit has also been allowed in the case of officers drawing pay above Rs. 2180 who retired on or after 1-12-78.

Uniform Minimum Wages for Traditional Industries

118. SHRI B. V. ABDULLA KOYA: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Central Government are aware of the failure of the

many State Governments adjoining Kerala to introduce minimum wages in their States for certain categories of industrial workers thereby causing migration of industries from Kerala to other States; and

(b) if so, whether Central Government propose to introduce uniform minimum wages for all the traditional industries in the country to remove any imbalance and avoidable migration of industries?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI T. ANJIAH): (a) and (b) The problem of migration of certain industries from Kerala to other States due to disparities in the minimum rates of wages fixed by the neighbouring States has been brought to the notice of Central Government. The Central Government has been persuading the concerned State Governments to reduce the disparities in the rates of minimum wages. Efforts continue to make the minimum wages uniform throughout the country as far as possible.

Abolition of Agricultural Wealth Tax

119. SHRI K. S. MALLE GOWDA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to refer to the answer to Starred Question 181 given in the Rajya Sabha on the 8th May, 1979 and state whether Government propose to abolish agricultural wealth tax keeping in view the fact that the realisation of agricultural wealth tax is quite small and is not worth the cost of assessment and collection and the harassment and discontent it is causing to the rural assesseees?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI R. VENKATARAMAN): The matter is still under consideration of the Government.

Appointment of a General Sales Agent by Air India

120. SHRI YOGENDRA SHARMA: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state: