

(b) There is no proposal for any general wage revision of Central Government employees.

(c) and (d) The Third Pay Commission had only recommended that the question whether a portion of DA should be treated as pay for specified purposes may be decided by the Government having regard to various considerations. The question of merger of dearness allowance with pay of the Central Government employees was raised by the Staff Side of the National Council (JCM) in its Ordinary Meeting held on 26th/27th August, 1977. The item has been remitted to a Committee of the National Council. The Committee discussed the matter in its meeting on 3rd April 1978. The matter was further discussed in the Ordinary Meeting of the National Council of the J.C.M. held on 14th/15th April, 1978. It was decided by the National Council that Standing Committee of the Staff Side may discuss the matter further with the Government. The discussions are in progress.

Scheme for the export of gold jewellery

*175. SHRI PRAKASH MEH-
ROTRA:
SHRI SAWAISINGH SISO-
DIA:
SHRIMATI HAMIDA HABIB-
ULLAH:
SHRI GURUDEV GUPTA:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have formulated the scheme for encouraging export of gold jewellery as announced by him during his Budget Speech for 1978-79; and

(b) if so, what are the main features of the scheme?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI H. M. PATEL): (a) and (b) The simplified scheme for encouragement to export of gold ornaments by allowing importation of gold free from the Customs Duty or by sale of gold from Government stocks at international price is being finalised and will be announced soon.

Scheme to give relief to farmers affected by natural calamities

*176. SHRI SAWAISINGH SISO-
DIA:
SHRI PRAKASH MEHRO-
TRA:
SHRI N. P. CHENGALRAYA
NAIDU:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal under Government's consideration to formulate a Scheme to give relief, in respect of loans outstanding against farmers, whose crops get damaged by natural calamities;

(b) whether Government propose to issue any guidelines to the commercial banks in this regard; and

(c) if so, what are the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI H. M. PATEL): (a) to (c) Under the guidelines issued by the Reserve Bank of India, commercial banks have been advised that in the case of farmers whose crops get damaged by natural calamities like floods, droughts etc. easy and appropriate rephasing of the recovery of loans may be allowed. If the damage to the crops due to natural calamities is more than 50 per cent, banks generally extend the facility of converting the short-term loans into medium-term loans, upto a period of 3 years.