

(c) The new rate is not applicable to loans sanctioned prior to 1-1-78. However, banks at their discretion may reduce the rate of interest even in such cases.

Old cases pending as on 1st January, 1978 but decided subsequently would also be eligible for the new rate of interest.

*157. [Transferred to the 11th May, 1978]

Staff in the Trade Fairs Authority

*158. DR. BHAI MAHAVIR: Will the Minister of COMMERCE, CIVIL SUPPLIES AND COOPERATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Trade Fairs Authority was set up with effect from the 1st March, 1977;

(b) if so, whether the staff of the Directorate of Exhibitions and Commercial Publicity has been absorbed in the Authority;

(c) if the answer to part (b) above be in the negative, what are the reasons for the delay in their absorption and by when the staff will be absorbed; and

(d) what steps Government are taking for formulating rules governing their service conditions?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE, CIVIL SUPPLIES AND COOPERATION (SHRI ARIF BAIG): (a) to (d) A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement

(a) Yes, Sir. The Trade Fair Authority commenced operations with effect from March 1, 1977.

(b) to (d) The officials of the erstwhile Directorate of Exhibitions and Commercial Publicity, who opted for service in the Trade Fair Authority of India and who were found suitable by the Screening Committee, have been taken over by the Trade Fair

Authority of India. The benefits accruing to them in lieu of their past Government service had to be finalised in consultation *inter-alia* with the Ministry of Finance, the Department of Personnel and Bureau of Public Enterprises. These have now been finalised and the orders are being issued. A committee of officers of the Trade Fair Authority of India, Ministry of Commerce, Bureau of Public Enterprises and the International Airport Authority has also been set up to help determine inter-seniority of various cadres merged in the Trade Fair Authority.

Janata Hotels in Kerala

*159. SHRI PATTIAM RAJAN: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state the number of Janata Hotel proposed to be constructed in Kerala during the next three years?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PURUSHOTTAM KAUSHIK): The five Year Plan 1978—83 envisages the construction of Janata hotels at the metropolitan cities of Delhi, Bombay, Calcutta and Madras, and smaller units at other selected places, which will be identified after a survey is undertaken.

Strike by the Development Officers in the L. I. C.

*160. DR. V. P. DUTT: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the period for which the Development Officers of the Life Insurance Corporation of India remained on strike this year;

(b) the extent of loss in business suffered by the Life Insurance Corporation due to this strike; and

(c) what adverse effect, if any this strike had on payment of bonus to the policy holders?