

(a) whether it is a fact that India may not get the anticipated aid from IDA during the current year;

(b) if so, what are the reasons for the IDA not honouring the commitments; and

(c) in what manner Government propose to meet the financial requirements of the projects for which full aid is not available?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE AND REVENUE AND BANKING (SHRI H. M. PATEL): (a) No, Sir. On the contrary, the World Bank Group has indicated a total project aid of the order of about \$ 1100 million for the Bank Fiscal Year ending 30th June, 1978 as against a commitment of \$ 700 million for the preceding year.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Reviews of the Customs Baggage Rules to check Smuggling

*586. SHRI GURUDEV GUPTA:
SHRIMATI LAKSHMI
KUMARI CHUNDAWAT:
[SHRI SAWAISINGH
SISODIA:
SHRIMATI HAMIDA
HABIBULLAH:
SHRI PRAKASH
MEHROTRA:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal under Government's consideration to review and suitably revise the Customs Baggage Rules as a measure to check smuggling; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI SATISH AGARWAL): (a) and (b) Government had appointed a Committee to examine and recommend measures to expedite clearance of international passengers and their baggage. This Committee's recommendations for amend-

ment of baggage rules have since been received and are under consideration. Baggage rules, by themselves, cannot be an effective anti-smuggling measure. However, if as a result of the decision on these recommendations of the Committee the existing baggage rules are liberalised, petty cases of smuggling through passengers' baggage should not occur.

Revision of Pay Scales of the Central Government Employees

*587. SHRI S. W. DHABE: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal under Government's consideration to revise the pay scales of the Central Government employees in the light of the recommendation made by the Third Central Pay Commission to the effect that the review of the D.A. formula or the revision of pay scales of Central Government employees may be undertaken when the average consumer price index crosses 272 points; and

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

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE AND REVENUE AND BANKING (SHRI H. M. PATEL): (a) and (b) The Third Pay Commission recommended that "should the price level rise above the 12-monthly average of 272 (1960—100) Government should review the position and decide whether the dearness allowance scheme should be extended further or the pay scales themselves should be revised." After the 12-monthly average of the All India Average Consumer Price Index for Industrial Workers (General) (1960—100) crossed 272 points, the Government considered the matter, but did not consider it feasible to revise the pay scales. However, Government have been granting *ad-hoc* increases in dearness allowance from time to time.