

edible oils imported by private parties; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND CIVIL SUPPLIES AND COOPERATION (SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR GOYAL): (a) and (b) The edible oils imported by private parties are distributed through normal trade channels. This process of distribution is, however, subject to the provisions of the relevant pieces of legislation like the Essential Commodities Act, and any orders issued thereunder, Prevention of Food Adulteration Act and the like.

*39. [Transferred to the 23rd November, 1977].

Agitation by employees of L.I.C. and nationalised banks

*40. SHRI RAMANAND YADAV:
SHRI SITARAM KESRI:
SHRIMATI SUSHILA
SHANKAR ADIVARE-
KAR:
SHRI SWAMI DINESH
CHANDRA:
SHRI NRIPATI RANJAN
CHOUDHURY:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the employees of the Life Insurance Corporation, the General Insurance Corporation, and the nationalised banks have been agitating for a long time in support of their demands;

(b) whether it is also a fact that they went on a day's token strike in the month of September, 1977 to press their demands;

(c) if so, what are the main demands of the employees; and

(d) what steps Government have taken to meet their demands?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI H. M. PATEL): (a) to (d) A

statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Class III and Class IV employees of the L.I.C. supervisory, clerical and subordinate staff belonging to All India Insurance Employees' Association of the G.I.C. and the workmen employees of the nationalised banks belonging to the All India Bank Employees Association went on a day's token strike on the 27th September, 1977 to press their various demands. Class I officers of the LIC and nationalised banks also went on a day's token strike on 27-9-1977.

(c) (i) *Demands of LIC employees:* Their demands *inter-alia* include payment of bonus at 16 per cent of annual salary for the years 1975-76 and 1976-77 as per the settlements of 1974, release of Rs. 2 crores for improvement in medical benefits, provident fund, Leave Travel on-cesson etc.; restoration of staff agencies and reduction in the age of retirement etc.

Demands of Class I officers *inter-alia* include revision of their scales of pay with effect from 1-4-1973, grant of D.A. at a higher rate to remove the disparity between the emoluments of Class I and Class III employees at common pay-ranges.

(ii) *Demands of GIC employees:*

Their demands *inter-alia* include payment of bonus at higher rate for the years 1974 and 1975 and at 20 per cent for the year 1976 without any limit of maximum salary for the purpose of getting bonus and maximum deemed salary for the purpose of calculation of bonus as provided in the payment of Bonus Act, reinstatement of cut in the provident fund rate, review of the present conduct, discipline and appeal rules etc.

(iii) *Demands of the Nationalised Banks Employees:*

Employees' demands *inter-alia* include upward wage revision involving merger of a substantial part of D.A. with full neutralisation in basic pay, increase in H.R.A., improvement in medical benefits, provident fund and gratuity.

Demands of officers *inter-alia* relate to implementation of the Pil-lai Committee recommendations enforcement of newly framed conduct rules and demands for bonus for officers drawing a salary of Rs. 1600/- p.m. and above.

(d) The demands of the employees of the L.I.C, G.I.C. and nationalised banks are being looked into by the concerned organisation in consultation with the Government.

Liberalisation of Foreign Travel Rules

*41. SHRIMATI HAMIDA
HABIBULLAH;
SHRI LAKSHMI KU-
MARI CHUNDAWAT;
SHRI PRAKASH MEHROTRA;
SHRI SAWAISINGH
SISODIA;
SHRI GURUDEV GUPTA:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have decided to liberalise the rules relating to foreign travel by Indian citizens; and

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

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI H. M. PATEL): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The details of liberalisation of foreign travel rules are as under:

(i) Under the current provisions, 'P' form clearance for travel abroad is accorded only by the Reserve Bank of India. In order to reduce the inconvenience to intending travellers who have often to go long distances to the nearest branch of Reserve Bank for this purpose, it has now been decided to authorise cer-

tain nationalised banks to accord 'P' form clearance.

(ii) In the case of Indians going on the hospitality of close relations, permission will be accorded if they produce an affidavit sworn in India to the effect that they are going on the sponsorship of an approved category of relations.

(iii) For the purpose of acceptance of hospitality, the cousin has also been added in the approved category of relations.

(iv) 'P' form clearance would be given for travel abroad on the strength of a pre-paid ticket advice, whether on Air India or any other airline, for visits under-taken on the sponsorship of friends or relatives not belonging to an approved category.

(v) Permission will be given freely to students for studies abroad in cases where their expenses are met by their relatives, friends, etc. abroad.

(vi) It has also been decided to give 'P' form clearance freely, subject to provisions of Foreign Contribution Regulation Act, 1976, to those who go on an invitation from trade unions, religious bodies in international organisations and chambers of commerce.

(vii) It has been decided to allow people to travel abroad under the Foreign Travel Scheme once in two years, as against once in three years as at present. The foreign exchange release under this scheme has also been increased from \$ 100 to \$ 500 irrespective of the air line on which the travel is made.

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*42. SHRI SHRIKANT VERMA: SHRI M. KADERSHAH:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the State Bank of India has recently ad-