

Assistance to States affected by Natural Calamities

1292. SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA:
SHRI S. KUMARAN:
SHRI LAKSHMANA MAHA-
PATRO:

Will the Minister of FINANCE
be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the financial assistance given to States affected by natural calamities is treated as part of Plan assistance;

(b) if so, whether any State Governments have requested the Central Government to review this policy on the ground that it upsets the States' planned development programmes; and

(c) if so, what are the details in this regard and what is Central Government's reaction thereto?

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

(b) and (c) Some State Governments have asked for a review of the present policy on the ground that adjustment of advance Plan assistance may affect their developmental programmes. Government of India are alive to this problem and would explore in consultation with the States affected ways and means of ensuring that the tempo of development is not impaired because of the relatively large assistance that had to be given this year for meeting extensive distress caused by natural calamities of serious magnitude.

The Seventh Finance Commission would be reviewing the policy and arrangements in regard to the financing of relief expenditure by the States affected by natural calamities.

Export of timber and rosewood

1293. SHRI JAGJIT SINGH
ANAND:
SHRI LAKSHMANA MAHA-
PATRO:
SHRI S. KUMARAN:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE
AND CIVIL SUPPLIES AND CO-
OPERATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Kerala Government has urged the Government of India to review its policy regarding export of timber and rosewood in log form;

(b) if so, what are the details in this regard and what is Central Government's reaction thereto; and

(c) what was the amount of foreign exchange earned from the export of timber and rosewood in log form during the last three years and what is Kerala's contribution in these exports?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN
THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE,
CIVIL SUPPLIES AND COOPERA-
TION (SHRI ARIF BEG): (a) The Kerala Government had urged the Government of India to review the ban on the export of rosewood in log form.

(b) The policy has since been reviewed and announced on 6th December, 1977. It has been decided to gradually phase out the exports of rosewood in Log form. For the current year a ceiling of 10,000 cubic metres has been prescribed which will be reduced to 6,000 cubic metres in 1978-79 and 3,000 cubic metres in 1979-80. There will be a total ban on the export of rosewood in log form from 1980-81.

(c) The total amount of foreign exchange earned from the export of rosewood in log form during last three years was as follows :

Year	Value (Rs. lakhs)
1974-75	546
1975-76	681
1976-77	1117

State-wise export statistics are not maintained. It is, therefore, not possible to indicate Kerala's contribution in the export earnings.

Repayment of additional D.A. amount

1294. SHRI JAGJIT SINGH ANAND: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have received any complaints recently from the staff working in the office of the Accountant General, Rajkot regarding premature repayment of additional D.A. amount;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof; and

(c) what action Government have taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE AND REVENUE AND BANKING (SHRI H. M. PATEL): (a) to (c) According to the Comptroller and Auditor General of India, only one employee in the Office of the Additional Accountant General, Rajkot has complained about his having been refused premature repayment of additional dearness allowance deposits. This employee had asked for repayment for the purpose of meeting legal expenses which, in the opinion of the competent authority, i. e. the Head of the Department, was not considered a sufficient ground warranting release of the deposits on grounds of extreme hardship under the first proviso to section 9(1) of the Additional Allowments (Compulsory Deposits) Act, 1974. Since the decision of the Head of the Department in this case is in conformity with the statutory provisions, question of Government taking any action thereon does not arise.

Petition from the Coordination Committee of the Civil Accounts Employees, Shastri Bhavan, New Delhi

1295. SHRI JAGJIT SINGH ANAND: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have received any petition from the Coordi-

nation Committee of the Civil Accounts Employees, Shastri Bhavan, New Delhi recently;

(b) if so, what are the demands contained in the petition; and

(c) what decision Government have taken thereon?

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

(b) and (c) The following demands have been made:—

(i) Review of the Scheme for separation of accounts from Audit at the Centre and Computerisation of accounts and to reverse them; and

(ii) discussion with the representatives of the All India Non-Gazetted Audit and Accounts Association before a decision is taken to separate accounts from audit in the States.

As regards (i) above, Government does not propose to reverse the scheme for separation of accounts from audit at Centre which has already been implemented.

Also a very limited computerisation is proposed to be attempted and that too only at that stage of consolidation of the accounts of the Central Government as a whole, furnishing details of the kind which were hitherto not being presented and which would also be beyond the capability of manual resources.

As regards (ii) above, the views of employees of the Audit Department who are proposed for transfer to the State Governments in the event of Separation of accounts from Audit in the States will be taken into account. At present, proposals for separation have not reached the stage of immediate implementation in any State.