

investment in Hotel President

385. SHRI S. KUMARAN: Will the -Minister of TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government financial institutions have invested considerable amounts of money in Hotel President, Bombay in the form of equity shares and loans;

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

(c) whether there is any proposal under Government's consideration to take-over this Hotel?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PURUSHOTTAM KAUSHIK): (a) and (b) Loans aggregating to Rs. 110 lakhs to finance the construction of Hotel President, Bombay were granted by the erstwhile Board of the Hotel Development Loan Scheme of the Department of Tourism (now being administered by Industrial Finance Corporation of India) in addition to the preference shares of the value of Rs. 10 lakhs held by the Industrial Credit & Investment Corporation of India Ltd.

(c) No, Sir. There is no such proposal under the consideration of the Government to take-over this Hotel at present.

Country-wise trade groups

386. SHRI LAKSHMANA MAHAPATRO: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND CIVIL SUPPLIES AND COOPERATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal under Government's consideration to form country-wise trade groups at the non-official level in all major cities and trade centres of the country; and

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

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND CIVIL SUPPLIES AND COOPERATION (SHRI MOHAN DHARIA): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

Central Government Employees' Insurance Scheme

387. SHRIMATI PRATIBHA SINGH: Will the Minister of FINANCE AND REVENUE AND BANKING be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that under the recently introduced, Central Government Employees' Insurance Scheme, no benefit would accrue to those employees who are now over 45 years of age, on their attaining the age of superannuation; and

(b) if so, what are the reasons for not paying even the interest on the amount of premia recovered from them?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE AND REVENUE AND BANKING (SHRI H. M. PATEL): (a) and (b) Under the Central Government Employees' Insurance Scheme, employees who are now 45 years of age or above are also entitled to full insurance cover of Rs. 5000 and in the event of their survival upto the age of superannuation the actual contributions made by them are payable to them. The reason for this is that the insurance premium required for the death cover rises so sharply beyond age 40 that at ages 45 onwards, even a mere return of contributions (without interest) at age 58, contains an element of subsidy from the Government.

Merger of dearness allowance with pay

388. SHRIMATI PRATIBHA SINGH: Will the Minister of FINANCE AND REVENUE AND BANKING be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have decided to merge a part of Dearness Allowance payable to Government employees with their pay as the cost of living has crossed the ceiling limit contemplated in the Third Central Pay Commissions' recommendations;

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

(c) if not, what are the reasons for the delay and by when a decision is likely to be taken in this behalf?