

(d) and (e) Dearness Allowance, Dearness Pay and Interim Relief drawn by Government employees in India prior to 1-1-73 were merged in the revised pay scales introduced on the basis of the Third Pay Commission's recommendations from 1-1-73. Since rate of foreign allowance is dependent on cost of living in the place of foreign posting, dearness allowance etc. sanctioned in India is not admissible to India-based officers and staff posted abroad. Consequently, whenever these elements are merged with the pay, it becomes necessary to resort to slab deduction in the quantum of foreign allowance. Pursuant to the recommendations of the Third Pay Commission in Para 31 of Chapter 26 of Vol. II, Part I of their report, the entire question of the fixation of foreign allowance in order to rationalise the basis of computation of the allowance to avoid the need for resorting to slab deduction is under consideration of the team of officers mentioned in (b) above. When the Foreign Allowance is rationalised, slab deduction will be done away with.

Reported U.S. arms supplies to Bangladesh

642. SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA :
SHRI YOGENDRA SHARMA :
SHRI LAKSHMANA MAHA-
PATRO :

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government are aware of the reported supply of U.S. arms and other military equipment to Bangladesh; and

(b) if so, whether Government have brought to the notice of the Government of Bangladesh that such arms supplies are not conducive to the good neighbourly relations between India and Bangladesh ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI BIPINPAL DAS) : (a) Government are aware of statements reportedly made by US officials as well as of reports appearing in the US press that talks have been held between the Governments of the USA and Bangladesh on supply of "limited types of military equipment such as for

transportation and communications" to Bangladesh on commercial basis.

(b) Government are keeping a watch on developments.

Telephones in Curzon Road Apartments

643. SHRI SYED AHMED HASHMI :
SHRI MAQSOOD ALI KHAN :

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that each Class I officer has been provided with an independent direct telephone connection in the Curzon Road (Kasturba Gandhi Marg) apartments in New Delhi;

(b) whether it is also a fact that in certain cases where both husband and wife are Govt. employees and are residing in these apartments have been provided with separate telephones; and

(c) whether Government propose to install a local telephone exchange in the apartments to save a number of telephone connections for public use.

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (DR. SHANKER DAYAL SHARMA) : (a) The P & T Department does not provide telephone connections on the basis of the status of an officer. At present telephones are provided in 214 Flats out of a total of about 350 flats and most of the connections have been provided against the demand of respective Departments.

(b) There are cases where separate telephones have been provided in the names of two persons in the same flats.

(c) No such proposal is at present under consideration of Government.

Japan's re-entry in the West Asian steel market

644. SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA :
SHRI LAKSHMANA MAHA-
PATRO :

Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that Japan has re-entered the West Asian steel market;