

of 70°. Since the opium tendered by the cultivator usually varies in consistence ranging from 55° to 70°, the opium of each cultivator is assayed by hand parakh and its weight computed at 70° consistence for determining the price payable.

90 per cent of the total amount due is paid on the spot and the remaining 10 per cent is paid when the report of chemical analysis is available from the Government Opium Factories regarding the actual consistence and purity of opium. Thus, there is no deduction in the total price payable to the cultivator.

(b) and (c) Do not arise. As explained in reply to (a) above, no deduction in weight of opium in the total amount due to the cultivator is made.]

#### Unadjusted amount of policy holders with L.I.C.

362. SHRI C. P. MAJHI: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that amount running to crores of rupees deposited by the policy holders is lying unadjusted with the Life Insurance Corporation; and

(b) if so, what steps are being taken by Government to expedite its adjustment?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRIMATI SUSHILA ROHATGI): (a) The amount of deposits that remained unadjusted at the end of 1970-71, 1971-72 and 1972-73 its percentage to the total annual premium income were as under:

Year	Amount	Percentage to total annual premium income
	(Rs. in crores)	
1970-71 . . .	33.17	11.51
1971-72 . . .	34.05	10.25
1972-73 . . .	36.58	9.60

(b) To adjust the amounts as early as possible the L.I.C. writes to the policy-holders:—

(a) to quote the correct policy number,

(b) to make good the shortfall in premium amount,

(c) to pay interest on delayed payment of premium,

(d) to comply with the requirements necessary for revival of policy.

A special Deposits Adjustments Drive has been recently launched by the L.I.C. to further accelerate the adjustments of amounts lying unadjusted.

#### Domestic passengers transport contract from Palam to city

363. SHRI BHOLA PRASAD: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that contract for running passenger transport from Palam Airport to city for domestic passengers has been awarded without calling tenders; and

(b) if so, the reason for this departure from established practice?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI RAJ BAHADUR): (a) and (b) The International Airport Authority of India awarded the contract to M/s. Ex-Servicemen Air-Link Transport Services (Pvt.) Ltd. without call of tenders as they were sponsored by the Director General of Resettlement, Ministry of Defence with the sole purpose of providing employment of Ex-Servicemen. There were two other parties who came forward with their offers but the terms offered by the above mentioned firm were the most favourable.

#### Tension among the employees of International Airports Authority of India

364. SHRI JAGJIT SINGH ANAND: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the ex-employees of International Airports Authority of India are suffering great hardship due to inordinate delay in settling of their claims for pension, gratuity and repayment of their general provident fund contributions; and