

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 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

(b) if so, the action Government propose to take to expedite payment of the dues to the employees?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI RAJ BAHADUR): (a) and (b) Pension and gratuity claims of the ex-Civil Aviation Department employees who had been permanently absorbed in the International Airports Authority have not yet been settled, but action is being taken to do so expeditiously. Since a large number of employees is involved a Pension Cell has been formed at each of the four Regional Headquarters and the International Airports Authority have also ordered the Directors at the four International Airports to give every possible assistance to the Pension Cell to expedite the settlement of the claims. Action is also being taken in consultation with the Bureau of Public Enterprises to expedite the payment of General Provident Fund.

Pollution of the Water in Pichola Lake

365. SHRI GANESH LAL MALI: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that all the sewage from the Lake Palace Hotel in Pichola Lake at Udaipur is discharged into the Pichola Lake thereby posing a serious health hazard as the lake water is a source of drinking water for the people of Udaipur; and

(b) if so, what steps Government propose to take to stop pollution of water of the Lake?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION (DR. (SMT.) SAROJINI MAHISHI): (a) and (b) No, Sir. Enquiries made reveal that septic tanks have been provided at the Lake Palace Hotel, Udaipur. These ensure independent sewage disposal; after suitable treatment, the water is used for gardening purposes inside the Lake Palace. It is understood that the septic tanks have been reinforced at cost of Rs. 40,000 approximately to prevent seepage.

Laxmi Vilas Palace Hotel, Udaipur

366. SHRI GANESH LAL MALI: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Laxmi Vilas Palace, Udaipur was purchased by the Government of India for running a hotel; and

(b) if so, the amount paid for (i) the land and buildings and (ii) furniture and other decoration articles?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION (DR. (SMT.) SAROJINI MAHISHI): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The Laxmi Vilas Place at Udaipur was purchased from the Maharana of Mewar at a total price of Rs. 7 lakhs including cost of the land, building, furniture, furnishings, paintings and other articles.

Loans to Hotels

367. SHRI RABI RAY: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state the amount disbursed as loans by Government to various hotels in the country during the year 1973-74?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION (DR. SMT. SAROJINI MAHISHI): Loans amounting to Rs. 1.80 crores under the Hotel Development Loans Scheme were disbursed to various approved projects during 1973-74, of which Rs. 1.76 crores were paid through the Industrial Finance Corporation and Rs. 4 lakhs were paid directly by the Department of Tourism.

D.A. instalments due to Central Government Employees

368. SHRI KATRAGADDA SRINIVAS RAO: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that further instalments of D.A. have become due to the Central Government employees as per the D.A. formula laid down by the Third Pay Commission;

(b) if so, the dates from which the instalments have become due; and