

cases where information of deposit of black money of unaccounted assets exists.

REPORT OF THIRD PAY COMMISSION

*55. SHRIMATI PRATIBHA SINGH : SHRI SURAJ PRASAD : SHRI MONORANJAN ROY : SHRI SASANKASEKHAR SANYAL : SHRI T. V. ANANDAN : SHRI VENIGALLA SATYANARAYANA : SHRIMATI SITA DEVI : SHRI GUNANAND THAKUR : SHRI SANAT KUMAR RAHA :

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to refer to the reply to Starred Question No. 469 in the Rajya Sabha given on the 30th May, 1972 and state :

(a) whether the Third Pay Commission has since submitted its report ;

(b) if so, the main observations and recommendations made by the Commission and Government's decisions thereon ; and

(c) if the answer to Part (a) above be in the negative, the reasons for the delay and whether Government have decided to pay further interim relief to Central Government employees pending submission of the report ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRIMATI SUSHILA ROHATGI) :

(a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) The reasons for the delay in the submission of the report by the Commission were indicated to the House in reply to Starred Question No. 35 on the 9th May, 1972. The Commission has since completed discussions with the official witnesses. They are now having discussions with Chief Ministers of various States and simultaneously taking decisions on various matters. The Commission is making every effort to complete the work as soon as practicable. On the recommendations of the Commission, additional interim relief was sanctioned when the index average reached 228. In terms of the recommendations of the Commission, the question of any further review can arise only when the 12-monthly average of the All India Working Class Consumer price index reaches 238. This level has not yet reached.

ENHANCEMENT IN SALES TAX RATES IN DELHI

*56. SHRIMATI SAVITA BEHEN : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is any proposal to enhance the Sales tax rates in Delhi, if so, the details in this regard ; and

(b) the remedial measures if any, adopted or proposed to be adopted in this regard ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRIMATI SUSHILA ROHATGI) : (a) and (b) There is no immediate proposal to enhance the Sales tax rates in Delhi, but a proposal to replace the Bengal Finance (Sales Tax) Act, 1941 in force in the Union Territory of Delhi by a new self-contained legislation is under examination of Government. The proposal is to promote suitable legislation after decisions are reached.

PROVIDENT FUND ACCOUNTS OF STATE BANK EMPLOYEES

*57. SARDAR AMJAD ALI : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state whether it is a fact that the employees of the State Bank of India, Bengal Circle, have not been furnished with the up-to-date statements of their Provident Fund Accounts ; if so, what action Government propose to take in the matter ?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI Y. B. CHAVAN) : The Provident Fund Statements of employees confirmed in the Bank's service prior to the 1st July, 1955 who were members of the Imperial Bank of India Employees Provident Fund are furnished upto date. About the rest, statements upto 31st March, 1968 have been furnished. The Bank expects to complete statements upto the 31st March, 1972 by December, 1973. The delay is due to late finalisation of Provident Fund rules.

SALE OF FOREIGN CURRENCY AT HIGHER RATES

*58. SHRIMATI SUMITRA G. KUL-KARNI : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government are aware that the foreign currency like dollar and Pound are being sold in the country at a higher price than its official rate ; and

(b) if so, the action if any, that Government propose to take to curb this practice ?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI Y. B. CHAVAN) : (a) and (b) Government are aware of certain unofficial transactions which take place in foreign currencies at rates different from the official exchange rates. These transactions are in contravention of the Exchange Control Regulations. The Enforcement Machinery is constantly vigilant and takes action in individual cases that come to notice. Certain legislative measures are also under contemplation for strengthening the existing provisions of the law.

MEDICAL AID TO EMPLOYEES OF STATE BANK

♦59. DR. R. K. CHAKRABARTI : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to State whether it is a fact that the medical aid which is provided to the employees of the State Bank of India belonging to the clerical and cash departments and subordinate staff and their respective families is limited to a certain amount viz ; Rs. 135/- per annum in area I, Rs. 115/- in area II and Rs. 100/- in area III, whereas the medical aid which is provided to its supervisory staff and their families is need based, if so, the reasons for such a discrimination ?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI Y. B. CHAVAN) : A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT The reimbursement of medical expenditure to the clerical and subordinate staff on the basis of agreement with the All India State Bank of India Staff Federation, the recognised Union of the Bank, is as follows :

Prior to 1972

(a) Rs. 135/- per annum in Area I, Rs. 115/- per annum in area II and Rs. 100/- per annum in Area III.

(b) Reimbursement of expenditure incurred in connection with treatment for cancer, tuberculosis, leprosy, mental diseases and accidents of serious nature.

As from 1st January, 1972.

(a) Rs. 150/- per annum for ordinary ailments in all areas.

(b) Reimbursement of expenditure incurred in connection with treatment of cancer, tuberculosis, leprosy, mental diseases and accidents of serious nature as hitherto.

Reimbursement of expenditure to the extent of Rs. 75% for self and 50% for families in all cases involving hospitalisation.

Supervising staff in the State Bank of India are being reimbursed expenditure on medical treatment to the extent of 100% for self and 75% for their families.

Differences in (he entitlement of medical benefits etc. in the different grades of employees are due to the fact that their general terms and conditions of service are determined on the basis of duties and responsibilities of their posts,

RE-DESIGNING OF AVROS (H.S. 748) AIRCRAFT

♦60. SHRI K. CHANDRASEKHARAN : Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that the Avros (H. S. 748) were designed as far back as 1955 and that the aircraft now manufactured at Hindustan Aeronautics Ltd., Kanpur, are of the same design ;

(b) whether it is also a fact that both Indian Airlines and the I. A. F. which are the main purchasers of this aircraft are not happy with its outmoded design ; and

(c) if so, whether Government propose to re-design and modernise this aircraft or stop its production ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE (DEFENCE PRODUCTION) IN" THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI VIDYA CHARAN SHUKLA) :

(a) It is not known exactly when the design work on Avro-748 was started by the original manufacturers. However, in 1959 when the Government of India entered into collaboration agreement the aircraft was in the stage of drawing board. The first prototype flew in 1960 ; the aircraft received certificate of airworthiness in January 1962. Since then a number of modifications and improvements have been incorporated.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

WAR RISK COMPENSATION TO INDIAN SHIP OWNERS

98. SHRI SANAT KUMAR RAHA : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Indian Shipowners have