

(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 the 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