

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI Y. B. CHAVAN) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) During the three-year period, covering calendar years 1969 to 1971 nationalised banks opened 181 offices in West Bengal, of which 150 were opened after the date of nationalisation (i.e. 19th July, 1969).

CLUBBING OF INCOME OF HUSBAND AND WIFE FOR TAX ASSESSMENT

* 202. SHRIMATI SAVITA BEHEN -will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the income of husband and wife, when both are Government servants, is taken together as one unit for assessment of income-tax; and

(b) whether Government are considering any proposal to give some relief after a certain limit to such Government servants; if so, the details thereof?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRIMATI SUSHILA ROHATGI) : (a) No, Madam.

(b) In view of the above reply to part (a) of the question, part (b) of the question does not arise.

JAL AIRCRAFT CRASHED NEAR DELHI

*203. SHRI K. L. N. PRASAD : SHRI LAL K. ADVANI : SHRI RATTAN LAL JAIN : SHRI N. K. SHEJWALKAR : SHRI D. K. PATEL : SHRI JAGDISH PRASAD MATHUR : SHRI VENIGALLA SATYA-NARAYANA: DR. K. MATHEW KURIAN : SHRI U. K. LAKSHMANA GOWDA:

Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that an aircraft belonging to JAL crashed near Delhi recently;

(b) the number of people killed or injured in the crash and what assistance Government rendered to the victims;

(c) whether the families of the persons killed have received any compensation from the Japan Airlines; if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether Government have set up

a court of inquiry to enquire into the causes of this aircraft crash; and

(e) if so, what are the findings?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION (DR. KARAN SINGH) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Out of the total of 89 persons on board, 86 were killed and there were only three survivors. In addition, 4 labourers working near the site of the crash were also killed. Relatives of the victims, who came to Delhi, were permitted to visit the site of the crash and were guided to the mortuary where the bodies had been kept for identification. The identified bodies were handed over to them in accordance with the procedures laid down in this regard. Survivors were also rendered all possible facilities.

(c) The question of payment of compensation to the families of the persons killed as well as the amount of compensation to be paid is, it is understood, under consideration of Japan Airlines.

(d) and (e) The accident is under investigation by a court of inquiry presided over by a Judge of the Delhi High Court.

HIGHEST AND LOWEST SALARIED INCOMES

*204. SHRI S. G. SARDESAI :

SHRI N. K. KRISHNAN :

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) the highest and the lowest salaries being paid in the private sector; and

(b) how do these compare with the highest and the lowest salaries paid in Government service?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRIMATI SUSHILA ROHATGI) : (a) and (b) No authentic information is readily available regarding the highest and the lowest salaries being paid in the private sector. The highest appointment in the Central Government, viz., Secretary to the Government of India, at present carries a fixed pay of Rs. 4,000 per mensem for I. C. S. officers and Rs. 3,500/ per mensem for others. The lowest paid official under the Central Government gets total emoluments of Rs. 163 per mensem inclusive of dearness allowance and interim relief. In the absence of detailed information for the employees in the private sector in different pay ranges, no meaningful comparison is possible.