

(ग) यदि हां, तो क्या सरकार इस बात को दृष्टि में रखते हुए कि उसके पास यह निधियां 25 से लेकर 30 वर्ष तक जमा रहती हैं इन निधियों पर दी जाने वाली ब्याज की दरों में वृद्धि करने विचार रखती है।

INTEREST ON EMPLOYEES' PROVIDENT FUND

591. SHRI SITARAM SINGH : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that the nationalised banks are giving interest at the rate of 7.5 per cent on 7-year fixed deposits;

(b) whether it is also a fact that interest on G. P. Fund and the Employees' Provident Fund is payable at Rs. 4.5 per cent; and

(c) if so, whether Government propose to increase the rate of interest on these funds in view of the fact that this amount remains deposited with Government for 25 to 30 years ?]

वित्त मंत्रालय में उपमंत्री (श्रीमती सुशीला रोहतगी) : (क) जी, नहीं। राष्ट्रीयकृत बैंकों द्वारा 7 वर्ष की नियतकालिक जमा रकमों पर दिए जाने वाले ब्याज की दर 7½ प्रतिशत वार्षिक से अधिक नहीं है।

(ख) और (ग) कर्मचारी भविष्य निधि की रकमों के ब्याज की दर की सिफारिश निधि के न्यासी मंडल द्वारा निधि द्वारा लगाई गई पूंजी पर पिछले वर्ष अर्जित ब्याज के आधार पर की जाती है। मंडल की सिफारिश के अनुसार, 1972-73 के लिए कर्मचारी भविष्य निधि की रकमों पर 6 प्रतिशत वार्षिक की दर की घोषणा की गई है।

केन्द्रीय सरकार के कर्मचारियों की सामान्य भविष्य निधि की रकमों पर 1972-73 के लिए, पहले 10,000 रुपये पर 5.70 प्रतिशत वार्षिक की दर से और उससे अधिक राशि पर 5.00 प्रतिशत वार्षिक की दर से ब्याज की घोषणा की गई है। सामान्य भविष्य निधि में अभिदान की दर में वृद्धि करने और ब्याज की दरें बढ़ाने सहित सामान्य भविष्य निधि योजना के कार्यकरण से सम्बद्ध विभिन्न प्रस्तावों पर संयुक्त परामर्शदात्री तंत्र की राष्ट्रीय परिषद के कर्मचारी पक्ष के साथ परामर्श करके विचार किया जा रहा है।

1[THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRIMATI SuSHILA ROHATGI) : (a) No, Sir. The interest rate offered by nationalised banks on 7-year fixed deposits with them does not exceed 7½ per cent per annum.

(b) and (c) The rate of interest on balances in the Employees' Provident Fund is recommended by its Board of Trustees on the basis of Fund's interest earnings in the previous year on its investments. On their recommendation, interest rate on Employees' Provident Fund balances for the year 1972-73 has been declared at 6 per cent per annum.

On G. P. Fund balances of Central Government employees, interest at the rate of 5.70 per cent per annum on balances upto Rs. 10,000 and at 5 per cent annum on excess thereof has been declared for the year 1972-73. Various proposals concerning the operation of G. P. Fund Scheme, including enhancement of the rate of subscription and upward revision of interest rates, are under consideration in consultation with the staff side of the National Council of the Joint Consultative Machinery.

DEVELOPMENT OF TOURISM INDUSTRY IN GOA

592. SHRIBINDESHWARIPD.SINGH: Will the Minister of TOURISM [AND CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is any proposal under Government's consideration to develop the tourism industry in Goa; and

(b) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION (DR. KARAN SINGH) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. It is proposed to develop beach resort facilities in Goa during the Fifth Plan for promoting a larger volume of tourist traffic.

The details are being worked out.

LOANS TO STATE GOVERNMENTS

593. MISS SAROJ PURUSHOTTAM KHAPARDE : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Central Government have been approached by certain State Governments to write off the loans advanced to them for development purposes etc.; and

(b) if so, whether some formula is being evolved to relieve these states of the burden ?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI Y. B. CHAVAN) : (a) A number of State Governments have been suggesting from time to time to write off "unproductive loans" given to them by the Central Government and/or resheduling of their debt liability to the Central Government.

(b) The question of repayment of loans granted to the various States by the Central Government has since been referred to the Sixth Finance Commission.

UNIFORM CREDIT POLICY BY NATIONALISED BANKS

594. SHRI PRANAB KUMAR
MUKHERJEE : SHRI N. R.
CHOUDHURY :

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have issued some guidelines to nationalised banks and their branches to follow a uniform credit policy throughout the country;

(b) whether it has come to the notice of Government that the different nationalised banks are adopting different credit policies and even two branches of the same bank are adopting different policies; and

(c) if so, the steps taken by Government in the matter ?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI Y. B. CHAVAN) : (a) to (c). The credit policy is framed by Government of India and the Reserve Bank and is uniformly applicable to all the commercial banks, including the nationalised ones. Within this broad framework, the banks operate various credit schemes. There may be some marginal differences as between different banks or within the same bank for different loan transactions on account of differences in such factors as purpose of the loan, amount, repayment period, viability of the project for which loan is being sought, reputation of the party seeking loan etc.

JET AEROPLANE

595. MISS SAROJ PURUSHOTTAM KHAPARDE : Will the MINISTER OF DEFENCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that a number of suggestions for manufacturing a new type of jet aeroplane have been under the consideration of Government; and

(b) if so, whether Government have taken any decision in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE (DEFENCE PRODUCTION) IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI VIDYA CHARAN SHU-KLA) : (a) and (b) The requirement of the Air Force for a new type of jet aeroplane is under examination. No final decision has yet been reached.

GRANT OF LOANS TO FARMERS AND SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIALISTS

596. MISS SAROJ PURUSHOTTAM KHAPARDE : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that the small farmers and small scale industrialists are experiencing difficulties in furnishing security for getting loans from the branches of the nationalised banks in rural areas; and

(b) if so, the steps proposed to be taken by Government to simplify and liberalise the procedure for obtaining loans ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRIMATI SUSHILA ROHATTGI) : (a) The nationalised banks have adopted need based approach by laying greater emphasis on the purpose of the loan, economic viability and technical feasibility of the project and the character and integrity of the borrower rather than adhering to traditional norms of security. No tangible security is insisted upon for making short term crop advances upto prescribed ceilings. In case of small scale industries, low margins are maintained consistent with the capacity of small borrowers to offer security. Depending on the merits of each case margins are sometimes totally dispensed with.

(b) Since nationalisation, banks have taken various steps to rationalise their lending procedures. These are simplification of forms, availability of forms in local languages, assistance in filling up the forms, delegation of discretionary powers to the dealing officials, periodic review of pending cases etc. Government have also taken up with the State Government to bring up legislation as advised by the Expert Group on State Enactments having a bearing on commercial banks' lending on agriculture for smoother flow of credit to agriculture.