

(d) what are the various items which are included under the crash programme.

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE/वित्त मंत्रालय में

उप-मंत्री (SMT. SUSHILA ROHATGI) : (a) Proposals amounting to Rs. 1.70 crores for the year 1971-72 in respect of 14 district? have already been sanctioned and necessary funds placed with the State Government. Proposals amounting to Rs. 1.04 crores in respect of 7 districts have been processed and sanctions are under issue.

(b) Allocations under the Crash Programme are made at the rate of Rs. 12.50 lakhs per district per year. On this basis, the amount admissible to the Government of Andhra Pradesh in respect of 21 districts in the State is Rs. 262.50 lakhs. Allocation for the State of Andhra Pradesh has been recently revised to Rs. 319.00 lakhs in view of larger proportion of rural population in the State.

(c) The works approved under the Scheme are to be implemented by the State Government through their existing machinery, particularly in the block organisation. The Central Government have strengthened the Community Development Department for maintaining liaison with the States and watching the progress of implementation.

(d) The types of works that have been approved to be taken up under the Crash Programme include minor irrigation, soil conservation and afforestation, reclamation of land and development of swamp areas, drinking water supply schemes and road construction.

D. A. TO PENSIONERS

913. SHRI SALIL KUMAR GANGULI: Will the Minister of FINANCE/वित्त मंत्री be pleased to state whether Government have any proposal under consideration to grant dearness allowance to pensioners in view of the recent rise in prices of essential commodities?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE.

/वित्त मंत्रालय में

उप-मंत्री (SHRI K. R. GANESH) : The system of payment of dearness allowance is not applicable to pensioners. They have, however, been sanctioned *ad-hoc* increases in

pensions from time to time and the last such increase was sanctioned from 1.9.69. There is no proposal under consideration at present.

PAYMENT OF FOREIGN ALLOWANCES TO EDUCATIONISTS AND SCIENTISTS

914. SHRI SHANKAR PRATAP SINGH : Will the Minister of FINANCE/वित्त मंत्री be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that recently he expressed concern about the differential rates of payment of foreign allowances etc. paid to educationists and scientists posted abroad *vis-a-vis* Foreign Service Officers ;

(b) if so, whether such differences have been removed ; and

(c) if the answer to part (b) above be in the affirmative, the details in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE/ वित्त मंत्री (SHRI Y. B. CHAVAN) : (a) No, Sir. There is no difference in the rates of Children's Education Allowance and Additional Foreign Allowance in lieu of income tax admissible to Foreign Service Officers and other officers who are not members of the Foreign Service. When non-IFS officers are given representational status they receive the same Representational Grant and Foreign Allowance as the Foreign Service Officers. But not all non-IFS officers are given representational status. In cases where non-IFS officers are not sanctioned any Representational Grant, their Foreign Allowance is reduced by a small amount, roughly a third of the provision included on account of Servants' wages, which is meant for meeting representational obligations. However, Ministry of Education and Social Welfare have proposed that their officers posted in Missions abroad should receive the same allowances as Foreign Service Officers. This proposal is under examination.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

GRANT OF EXEMPTION TO HANDICAPPED PERSONS FROM PAYING ROAD TAX

915. SHRI SANDA NARAYANAPPA: Will the Minister of EDUCATION AND SOCIAL WELFARE/शिक्षा और समाज कल्याण मंत्री be pleased to state : (a) whether Government's attention has