

CEILING ON INDIVIDUAL INCOME

724. SHRI THILLAI VILLALAN :
 SHRI NIREN GHOSH :
 SHRI MONORANJAN ROY :
 SHRI SASANKASEKHAR SAN-
 YAL :

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have any proposal to fix ceiling on individual income; and

(b) if so, what are the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF REVENUE AND EXPENDITURE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI VIDYA CHARAN SHUKLA) : (a) No, Sir,

(b) Does not arise.

CALCUTTA PORT

725. SHRI DWIJENDRALAL SEN GUPTA :
 SHRI J. P. YADAV :

Will the Minister of PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND SHIPPING AND TRANSPORT be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that the Port of Calcutta is fast losing its importance due to silting of the river Ganges and various other reasons; and

(b) if so, what are the other reasons and the steps that are being taken to overcome the situation ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE DEPARTMENT OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING AND TRANSPORT (SARDAR IQBAL SINGH) : (a) and (b). The River Hooghly has been deteriorating in recent years on account of the insufficiency of headwater supply which has resulted in fall in drafts and in the inability of Calcutta Port to take deep-drafted vessels. This accounts to some extent for the fall in traffic. To revitalise the river and arrest its deterioration by supply of silt-free water to the river throughout the year, the Farakka Barrage is being constructed. A new Dock system, designed to cater to the requirements of deep-drafted vessels, is also being built at Haldia. Changes in the pattern of trade also account for the fall in the traffic. For example, foodgrain traffic has fallen considerably due to the improve-

ment in the food situation in the country. The coal traffic has fallen due to coal for railways being moved more by rail and switching over to dieselisation. Still the Port of Calcutta handles a very large quantity of dry cargo and according to the Port Commissioners nearly 40 per cent of India's imports and exports in terms of value passes through it.

DISPARITY BETWEEN PAY-SCALES OF CENTRAL GOVERNMENT EMPLOYEES

726. SHRI G. GOPINATHAN NAIR : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) what are the highest and the lowest scales of pay of the employees of the Government of India; and

(b) whether Government have any proposal to reduce the disparity between these scales of pay ?

THE MINISTER OF REVENUE AND EXPENDITURE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI VIDYA CHARAN SHUKLA) : (a) The lowest scale of pay existing under Central Government is Rs. 70-1-80-EB-1-85 and the highest pay is Rs. 3,500 per month (Rs. 4,000/- per month for I.C.S. Officers) applicable to the Secretaries to the Government of India.

(b) No, Sir, Government would await the recommendations of the Third Pay Commission in this regard.

YOUTH HOSTELS IN INDIA

727. SHRI B. V. ABDULLA KOYA : Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) the progress made so far in setting up Youth Hostels in India; and

(b) the names of places where these hostels are proposed to be opened during the next two years ?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION (DR. KARAN SINGH) : (a) Land is in the process of being acquired for the Youth Hostels at Jaipur, Madras, Trivandrum, Patnitop (J&K), Hampi (Mysore) and Aurangabad, and standardised plans of the building have been approved. Estimates for the Youth Hostels at Jaipur and Madras received from State Governments are under