

(c) According to information furnished by the National Council of Applied Economic Research no surveys on the extent of black money in the country have been conducted by them.

**Island Special Allowance for Bank Staff**

1238. SHRI ABDUL WAHAB PEEVEE: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Island (hard area allowance) Special Allowance is given @ 25 percent of basic pay to all the Central Government employees posted in the Nicobar District irrespective of the fact whether they are from Andaman and Nicobar Islands or not;

(b) whether such a facility is not available to the officers/staff of Nationalised Banks posted at Nicobar District; and

(c) if so, the reasons therefor and by when Government propose to extend this benefit to the Nationalised Banks?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Such a facility to the officers/staff of most of the nationalized banks posted at Nicobar district is available in the form of a special allowance.

(c) Does not arise.

**Non-Receipt of option letters of UTI Schemes**

1239. SHRIMATI JAYABACHCHAN: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that UTI has not responded to letters from investor in respect of schemes that were foreclosed, like Children Gift Growth Fund in April this year;

(b) if so, the fate of the investments made by the investors in this scheme who failed to exercise any option under the scheme due to non-receipt of option letters sent by UTI; and

(c) whether Government propose to direct UTI to immediately inform such investors?