

Taouse rent allowance, have as a consequence increased. Only in the case of employees in Glass 'A' and 'B-i' cities who are in occupation of Government accommodation for which rent is actually paid at 10 per cent of pay, increased deduction from pay has occurred. This, however, cannot be helped since Dearness Pay is reckoned uniformly as pay for both house rent allowance and house rent recovery.

MINERALS DEVELOPMENT AND REGULATION ACT

145. SHRI BABUBHAI M. CHINAI : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS AND MINES AND METALS be pleased to state :

(a) whether some State Governments have expressed opposition to the proposed Central Government's amendment of Section 30(A) of the Minerals Development and Regulation Act affecting right of the States to impose royalty on mining leases; and

(b) if so, the names of such State Governments?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS AND MINES AND METALS (SHRI JAGANNATH RAO) :
(a) and (b) Out of the replies received from the coal producing States, the State of Bihar has opposed the amendment. Replies from the Governments of Andhra Pradesh, Maharashtra, Orissa and West Bengal are awaited.

ALLEGATION AGAINST L.I.C. OFFICIALS

146. SHRI M. M. DHARIA : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

*(a) whether it is a fact that the Chairman of the L.I.C. has recently received a representation sent by the Zonal President of the National Federation of Insurance Field Workers of India (North Zone), dated May 25, 1969, making serious allegations against certain L.I.C. official in allotting the premises of the L.I.C. ; and

(b) if so, what action has been taken by Government in the matter?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JAGANNATH PAHADIA) : (a) and (b) Yes, Madam. The Chairman has received a letter dated the 29th May, 1969

on the subject. As it is an internal matter of the Life Insurance Corporation, the Corporation has to consider it and not the Government. The Chairman has enquired into the matter and submitted a report to Government. The report is under consideration.

REQUIREMENT OF COPPER IN INDIA

147. SHRI N. R. MUNISWAMY : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS AND MINES AND METALS be pleased to state:

(a) what is the total requirements of copper in India and how much out of it is imported; and

(b) whether there is any scheme to prospect for copper ore in our country, if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS AND MINES AND METALS (SHRI JAGANNATH RAO) : (a) Against the estimated requirement of 77,200 tonnes of copper during 1968-69, the imports of copper and alloys, was 43,023 tonnes.

(b) Prospecting of copper is being carried out by the Geological Survey of India. Sizeable copper ore bodies have been located in Singhbhum District of Bihar, Jhunjhunu and Sikar Districts of Rajasthan and Guntur District of Andhra Pradesh.

A search for Base-metal deposits including copper by Aerial Geophysical Surveys followed by ground work has also been taken up. The aerial survey has covered an area of 91,400 square Kilo-meters in Arr-avali Region in Rajasthan, Eastern Cudda-pah Basin in Andhra Pradesh and parts of Bihar-Bengal. The ground follow up action is in progress in all the three areas.

Investigation in other promising areas are also under way.

BANK OF CEYLON

148. SHRI N. R. MUNISWAMY : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that the Government of Ceylon have sought the permission of the Government of India to open branches of the Bank of Ceylon in India; and

(b) if so, what is the reaction of Government thereto?