

at liberty to come to the C.H.S. doctors and the dispensaries and get themselves examined as well as get all the necessary treatment. The school health scheme is not being covered by the C.H.S. and we cannot be responsible for that.

*762. [For answer, vide cols. 4923—4928 supra.]

INSURANCE PREMIA RATES

*763. SHRI RAM SINGH: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to refer to the reply given to Starred Question No. 491 in the Rajya Sabha on the 11th March, 1964 and state:

(a) whether in view of the increase in the normal expectancy of life in the country, the Government is now considering to reduce the premium rates on life insurance policies; and

(b) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF PLANNING (SHRI B. R. BHAGAT): (a) and (b) There is no proposal to reduce the rates at present. This question will, however, be examined again, if necessary, when the results of the investigation into the mortality of the assured lives during the years 1961 to 1964, which is being conducted by the Life Insurance Corporation, are available.

SHRI RAM SINGH: May I know how long it will take before this is made available?

SHRI B. R. BHAGAT: It requires a very detailed actuarial calculation and I hope that it would be available very soon; for as long as the time is necessary and not more than that.

SHRI BIREN ROY: Is there is a steady decline in the mortality rate in this country, and the average life is much more than the expectancy of life today?

SHRI B. R. BHAGAT: That is true, that is the apparent fact, but the L.I.C. is going into it in greater detail.

SHRI BIREN ROY: Why should it not be applied to the premium rate? It is based on expectancy of life?

SHRI B. R. BHAGAT: To bring it as a factor for consideration, they must go into it scientifically. Already the premium rates, when insurance was nationalised, took into account this fact, and that was the reason why a lower premium rate was fixed. Since then there is an improvement in the life expectancy. It is an apparent fact, as I said, but to bring it into the calculation of premium rates it has to be gone into, and the Life Insurance Corporation knows it, as a result of detailed actuarial evaluation.

SHRI BIREN ROY: Is it not a fact that a lower premium rate is not fixed because the premium rate which was existing in the Empire of India and the Oriental in 1956 was taken as the basis?

SHRI B. R. BHAGAT: Oriental's premium less Re. 1 was fixed, even less than that. I am only saying that even at the time of fixing the premium rates, this fact of higher expectancy was taken into consideration. But since then, as I said, they are going into this fact as between 1961 and 1964 in greater detail. Certainly when the results are out, they will consider this matter.

SHRI I. K. GUJRAL: The last premiums were fixed on the basis of the Oriental premiums, where as even at that time the foreign companies were giving certain discounts to different types of hazards. May I ask the hon. Minister if any scientific actuarial examination of the whole thing has been carried out and, if so, when was it carried out last?

SHRI B. R. BHAGAT: As I said, to compare it with foreign companies whose business and turnover are much larger than that of the L.I.C., leaving aside individual companies which formed into the Corporation, is not relevant. One foreign company has a much larger turnover and to compare

them is not relevant. There is the fact that on the one side are the more favourable factors of higher life expectancy and lower mortality rate and on the other side the adverse factors are the increased prices, the higher expenses, more wages to the L.I.C. employees and the expenses going up as a result of various factors. They did not go into it earlier but they are now going into it and it is being done in the valuation of 1961 to 1964 and they will certainly take into account all these factors.

SHRI ABID ALI: May I know how the Government or the L.I.C. is proposing to compensate the policy holders because of the decrease in the value of the rupee as compared with its value when premium was paid?

SHRI B. R. BHAGAT: That is not one of the risks undertaken.

SHRI T. S. PATTABIRAMAN: May I know whether the policy holders are getting better returns in the shape of increased bonus every year?

SHRI B. R. BHAGAT: If the profits of the L.I.C. go up, it will be reflected in the bonus.

SHRI DAHYABHAI V. PATEL: May I know whether the Government is not able to give better results in the management of the L.I.C. largely because of the fact that the L.I.C. is now ridden with officialdom and the top-heavy management counterbalances the lower mortality experienced by the Corporation because of the improved health conditions?

SHRI B. R. BHAGAT: That is a conclusion which reflects more the prejudice of the hon. Member than the facts.

†PAY SCALES OF GESTETNER OPERATORS AND STAFF CAR DRIVERS ETC.

*691. SHRI D. B. DESAI: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the present pay scales of (i) Gestetner Operators, (ii) Staff Car Drivers and (iii) Despatch Riders working in the Ministries and other attached offices in Delhi;

(b) whether there is any difference in the pay scales of the above categories of posts;

(c) if so, the reasons for this disparity in scales of pay and what steps Government propose to take to bring uniformity in the scales of pay of all the above categories; and

(d) whether liveries are provided to all the above categories of employees, if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF PLANNING (SHRI B. R. BHAGAT): (a) The standard scales in respect of these posts are as follows:—

1. (i) Senior Gestetner Operators—
Rs. 110-3-131.

(ii) Junior Gestetner Operators—
Rs. 80-1-85-2-95-EB-3-110.

2. Staff Car Drivers—

(i) Rs. 110-3-131-4-155-EB-4-175-5-180 (for Staff Car Drivers working in the Secretariat Offices of the Ministries of the Government of India).

(ii) Rs. 110-3-131-4-139. (for others).

3. Despatch Riders—
Rs. 100-3-130.

(b) Yes, in the case of Staff Car Drivers only.

†Transferred from the 18th December, 1964.