

SHRI R. P. N. SINHA: Four years is much too long a period.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Four years is too long a period, says Mr. Sinha.

SHRI T. N. SINGH: In view of the shortage today it is even felt that it is proper to extend the period to four years.

SERI BHUPESH GUPTA: Does the rule apply to Members of Parliament? And then what happens? Suppose, after buying the car General Elections take place and he loses his seat, can he sell it?

SHRI T. N. SINGH: I am sure Members of Parliament would like to follow the same rule which is applicable to others.

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA: I want to know the position; it is 'suppose'.

SHRI T. N. SINGH: The rule applies equally to all.

NIGHT DUTY ALLOWANCE FOR COMMERCIAL DEPARTMENT EMPLOYEES

*533. SHRI B. K. GAIKWAD: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that all railway employees are paid night duty allowance except the Commercial Department employees; and

(b) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAM SUBHAG SINGH): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

SHRI D. THENGARI: Is it not a fact that these commercial clerks are not given night allowance?

SHRI RAM SUBHAG SINGH: I said 'No' because booking clerks do get night allowance, and there are others who do not get that night allowance,

and it is according to the duties that the night allowance is given. The issue was first referred to Justice Rajadhyaksha and he did not recommend that. Later on this matter was examined by Justice Jagannath Das and he did recommend that and so the whole thing was revised.

DEVELOPMENT OF JUTE INDUSTRY

*538. SHRI SITARAM JAIPURIA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government are reviewing the development of jute industry in the country in view of reduced jute crop-yield in Pakistan this year;

(b) if so, what policy is being adopted by Government in the light of less imports of raw jute from Pakistan;

(c) what is the average consumption of raw jute annually in the country; and

(d) what measures are being taken to encourage jute production in the country?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI S. V. RAMASWAMY): (a) and (b) The development of jute industry including the supply position of raw jute is kept under constant review. No shortage of raw material is expected to arise.

(c) Mill consumption is of the order of 78 lakh bales per annum.

(d) A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT

Measures taken to encourage jute production

(1) Government have announced an operational minimum price of raw jute based on Rs. 80.38 per quintal for Assam Bottom variety delivered at Calcutta. Apart from the setting up of the Jute Buffer Stock Association