

(a) whether the Ministry is examining Thirteenth Finance Commission's suggestion to offer new pay scales to Government employees only from future date;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor; and

(c) the steps being taken to constitute the Seventh Pay Commission as early as possible to avoid any type of loss to Government employees ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA): (a) and (b) The 13th Finance Commission had recommended that structural shocks such as arrears arising out of Pay Commission awards should be avoided making the pay award commence from the date on which it is accepted. This recommendation is to be examined in due course.

(c) No such steps have been initiated by the Government at this stage.

Debt Waiver Scheme for Sc/St Community in Assam

2054. SHRIMATI NAZNIN FARUQUE : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the State Government of Assam has submitted any proposal for a Debt Waiver scheme for waiving of borrowers belonging to SC/ST community;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the details of the action taken or contemplated by Government of financial assistance to the State Government for implementing the scheme ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA) : (a) to (c) No proposal for Debt Waiver scheme for waiving of loans to borrowers belonging to Scheduled Caste (SC)/Scheduled Tribe (ST) community has been submitted by the State Government of Assam to the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment and Ministry of Tribal Affairs.

Allocation of Funds for Self-Governmenace

2055. SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to State :

(a) the details of the recommendations made by the Thirteenth Finance Commission regarding allocation of funds to the institutions of self-governmenace set up under provisions in Parts IX and IXA of the Constitution;

(b) the details of the progress in disbursements on this account, State-wise; and

(c) government's assessment of the contribution that such block grants have made to strengthen local self-governmenace in the country ?