

(a) whether the Chief Vigilance Officer of Kendriya Bhandar has received complaints of rampant corruption in the purchase of sugar in Kendriya Bhandar; and

(b) if so, the action taken in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS (DR. JITENDRA SINGH): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. A complaint, regarding bulk procurement of sugar, has been received by the Chief Vigilance Officer of Kendriya Bhandar, which has been processed as per the extant rules/guidelines in this regard.

Discontinuation of overtime allowance

730. DR. BANDA PRAKASH: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has decided to discontinue overtime allowance for categories other than operational staff and industrial employees;

(b) whether it has also been decided to link grant of overtime allowance with biometric attendance; and

(c) whether Government has also decided not to revise the rate of overtime allowance for the operational staff and they would continue to get the amount as per its order issued in 1991?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS (DR. JITENDRA SINGH): (a) Yes Sir, in pursuance of the recommendations of the 7th Central Pay Commission, the Government has decided to discontinue overtime allowance for categories other than operational staff and the industrial employees governed by statutory provisions, *w.e.f.* 01.07.2017.

(b) and (c) Yes, Sir.

Letters/e-mails from members of Kendriya Bhandar

731. SHRI RAM KUMAR KASHYAP: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the details of letters/e-mails received by the Chief Welfare Officer (CWO) of DoPT from the Members of Kendriya Bhandar during the last two years;

(b) whether it is a fact that CWO neither acknowledges nor replies to such letters/emails and if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether any day has been fixed by CWO to meet public to hear their grievances personally and if not, the reasons therefor; and

(d) the details of steps taken to improve the working of CWO?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS (DR. JITENDRA SINGH): (a) and (b) As per available records, approximately 17 emails from the members of Kendriya Bhandar were received by the Chief Welfare Officer (CWO) during the last two years which were duly forwarded to the Managing Director, Kendriya Bhandar, for necessary action, as Government of India is not directly involved in the day-to-day functioning of Kendriya Bhandar. As per the co-operative principles enshrined in the Multi State Cooperative Societies Act, 2002, cooperatives like Kendriya Bhandar are democratic organisations controlled by the members, who actively participate in setting the policies and in the decision making, and in which the Government has no direct role.

(c) and (d) The CWO is responsible for the implementation and supervision of all the welfare schemes instituted by the Government of India for the Welfare of the Government Employees and their families, and is always available and accessible, in person and on emails as well. A weekly meeting is held to monitor the progress of the ongoing welfare activities, and improvements in the working are a continuing process, based on the feedback received and various exigencies of work.

Vacant seats in Central Ministries under ST quota

732. SHRI MAHESH PODDAR: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a large number of posts reserved for Scheduled Tribes in Central Government are vacant; and

(b) if so, the details of such vacancies, Ministry-wise and Department-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS (DR. JITENDRA SINGH): (a) and (b) Vacant posts of reserved category candidates are not centrally maintained, as the recruitment process is carried out by the respective cadre controlling authorities through concerned recruitment agencies. However, Department of Personnel and Training monitors the progress in filling up of backlog reserved vacancies for Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes and Other Backward Classes with ten Ministries/Departments, having more than 90% of the employees in Central Government.

As per information provided by the ten Ministries/Departments, which includes their Public Sector Banks/Financial Institutions, Central Public Sector Undertakings, etc.,