

(xii) Instructions have been issued requiring the Commissioners to convene periodical meetings with their Inspecting Assistant Commissioners who should do likewise with their range Income-tax Officers to appraise the performance of recovery work. The Board, as stated before, have also been appraising the performance of each Commissioner of Income-tax through monthly telegraphic reports.

Fund for revamping and rejuvenation of Tea Plantation in Darjeeling

2654. SHRI ANANDA PATHAK: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have set apart a substantial amount of fund for revamping and rejuvenation of tea plantations in the hill areas of the district of Darjeeling; and

(b) what would be the criteria and terms and conditions for reimbursement of the fund?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI KHURSHED ALAM KHAN): (a) and (b). On the basis of a Techno-Economic Survey conducted under the auspices of the Tea Board, a scheme for financing a 10 year development programme for the Darjeeling Tea Industry prepared by the Board is under consideration of the Government.

Meanwhile, assistance under the existing Development Schemes of the Tea Board viz. Tea Plantation Finance Scheme, Tea Machinery and Irrigation Equipment Hire Purchase Scheme and Replantation and Rejuvenation Subsidy Scheme, are available to the tea estates in Darjeeling. The rate of replantation subsidy for Darjeeling gardens has recently been enhanced from Rs. 5,000 per hectare to Rs. 15,000 per hectare.

Financial relief to Silver Ornament Cottage Industries in Maharashtra

2655. SHRI R. S. MANE: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether he is aware of the fact that due to the harassment for issuance of licence and levy of excise duty on Five Small Silver Ornament Cottage Industries of Hupari in Maharashtra these are closed and thousands of labourers and job-workers are deserted; and

(b) if so, what steps Government have taken to give financial relief to these small units at Hupari in Maharashtra?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI SAWAISINGH SISODIA): (a) and (b). Certain manufacturers producing silver wires and strips at Hupari in Maharashtra were required to take out central excise licences and pay central excise duty as the value of their clearances exceeded the duty free limit under Notification No. 89/79 dated 1-3-79. Action was accordingly initiated by the Central Excise authorities. Subsequently, however, Government have exempted strips, wires, sheets, plates and foils of silver from the whole of the duty of excise leviable thereon, under Notification No. 161/80 dated 15-10-80. Manufacturers, including job workers, whose products are exempt under this notification are not now required to take out a central excise licence or pay central excise duty.

Transfer of staff from Controller of Accounts

2657. SHRI C. PALANTAPPAN: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether some of the staff from the Controller of Accounts, Ministry of Finance are transferred without their consent in writing to the office of the Controller of Aid Accounts and Audit and posted to Ex-Cadre Posts which is out of their Cadre, and com-

pelled to work under their juniors who have been promoted to higher grades without even five years experience;

(b) whether it is also true that officials sitting side by side, and doing the same work, performing similar duties and having the same responsibilities in the Controller of Aid Accounts and Audit are getting Deputation (Duty) Allowance and the staff of the Controller of Accounts are not paid Deputation (Duty) Allowance;

(c) if so, the reasons for this discrimination;

(d) whether the Finance Ministry have been receiving representations in the matter; and

(e) if so, action taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI R. VENKATARAMAN): (a) Consequent on the departmentalisation of accounts of Union Government, some of the staff employed in various Offices of the Indian Audit and Accounts Department were transferred to the Accounts side along with the work on which they were engaged, under the provisions of the Departmentalisation of Union Accounts (Transfer of Personnel) Act, 1976. Accordingly the Staff engaged in the Office of the erstwhile Accountant General, Central Revenues (now Director Audit, Central Revenues) on external assistance transactions was transferred to the Ministry of Finance and located in the Office of the Controller of Aid, Accounts and Audit along with other staff already working there.

As the persons transferred from the erstwhile A.G.C.R.'s Office and those taken on deputation basis do not belong to a common seniority list, the question of any compulsion or seniors working under juniors does not arise.

(b) As explained above, some of the posts in the Office of the Controller of Aid, Accounts and Audit are manned by the Staff of the Indian Audit and

Accounts Department transferred along with their work consequent upon departmentalisation of Union accounts and the other posts are those which are filled up by the Department of Economic Affairs in accordance with the relevant Recruitment Rules which inter alia provide payment of deputation (duty) allowance.

(c) to (e). Deputation (duty) allowance is admissible when appointments are made by transfer on a temporary basis to other Departments or State Government provided the transfer is outside the normal field of deployment. Representation from employees belonging to the Cadre of Controller of Accounts and working in the Office of Controller of Aid, Accounts and Audit were received for payment of Deputation (duty) Allowance to them. In the peculiar circumstances in which the staff borne on the cadre of Controller of Accounts was allocated to the Office of the Controller of Aid Accounts and Audit, their transfer to the Office of the Controller of Aid, Accounts and Audit is not deemed as outside the normal field of their deployment. The payment of deputation (duty) allowance is, therefore, not admissible.

Output of Mica

2658. **SHRI N. DENNIS:** Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state:

(a) the total output of mica in India during the last five calendar years, State-wise;

(b) whether mica production is getting reduced in recent years; and

(c) if so, the steps taken to improve mica production?