

nationalise the company or to amalgamate it with any other institution.

Upgradation of Cities

358. SHRI HARISH RAWAT: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal for upgrading Trivendrum, Nainital, Shimla, Almora, Ranikhet, Pithoragarh and Dehradun, the cities and towns of tourists attraction, for the purpose of City Compensatory Allowance;

(b) if not, whether Government are aware of the high level of prices of essential commodities and the high rate of house rent at these places; and

(c) if so, the reasons for not upgrading the cities and towns for the said purpose?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH):
(a) No such proposal is under consideration.

(b) and (c). As per the existing criterion, cities/towns are classified/upgraded for the purpose of grant of House Rent Allowance/Compensatory (City) Allowance (CCA) based on their population as reflected in the decennial Census. The 4th Central Pay Commission which had specifically gone into the question of classifying cities for the purpose of CCA did not favour the criterion of classification on the basis of the costliness of places. As such, the question of upgradation of cities on considerations other than the population does not arise.

Group Insurance Scheme for Fishermen

359. SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Life Insurance Corporation of India contemplate to start a group insurance scheme for fishermen;

(b) if so, the main features of the scheme; and

(c) the time by which the Scheme will be implemented and the approximate number of fishermen likely to be benefited by this Scheme?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH): (a) to (c). The Life Insurance Corporation of India propose to introduce a group insurance scheme for fishermen in the State of Kerala, to begin with. The scheme envisages an insurance cover of Rs. 3000 with Double Accident Benefit against an annual premium of Rs. 30. Fifty per cent of the premium will be borne by the State Government of Kerala who would function as the nodal agency and the balance 50% will be paid by way of subsidy from the Social Security Fund. The expected number of fishermen proposed to be covered is in the range of two lakhs. The scheme will become operational soon after the completion of the usual formalities.

[English]

Satyagraha by Rubber Growers

360. SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether several hundred rubber growers had staged a day long siege of the control office of the Rubber Board recently in support of the indefinite relay Satyagraha launched since 2 September, 1990;

(b) if so, the demands of the rubber growers; and