

(a) whether Government have recently issued orders whereby a higher pay ceiling has been fixed for the allotment of scooters and motor cycles to Government employees;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether Government are aware that by these orders a large number of employees have been deprived of the facility of getting allotment of scooters out of the Government quota as also from the market as they had depended on Government quota; and

(d) if so, the steps Government propose to take to help Government employees in lower pay groups especially those whose applications for allotment of scooters are pending with the Ministry for more than a year?

The Deputy Minister in the Ministry of Industry and Supply (Shri Bibudhendra Misra): (a) and (b). A minimum pay limit has been fixed in view of the wide gap between the demand from Government employees and the actual availability of scooters for allotment to them.

(c) and (d). The Central Government quota of scooters is meant mainly to meet the priority requirements of Government employees. The considerations that govern allotment of priority are firstly whether the possession of a scooter is essential for the applicant in the efficient discharge of his duties, and secondly, whether he is in a position to purchase and maintain a scooter. Naturally every Government employee who sends an application cannot get a priority allotment. While Government employees may have a chance, sooner or later, for being considered for priority allotment, it is open to them to book their orders for scooters in the market in the normal way, instead of solely depending upon the Government quota. The intention has never been that every employee who puts in an application has to be allotted a scooter from this quota.

Indo-Ceylonese Trade Pact

*296. { Shri Yashpal Singh:
Shri Bhagwat Jha Azad:
Shri Onkar Lal Berwa:
Shri P. H. Bheel:

Will the Minister of Commerce be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Indo-Ceylonese Trade Agreement has been modified; and

(b) if so, the directions in which the modifications have been carried out?

The Minister of Commerce (Shri Manubhai Shah): (a) and (b). No, Sir. However, as a result of recent discussions with the Ceylonese authorities, the Trade arrangement for the year 1955 has been concluded on the same pattern as for the previous years, within the framework of the Indo-Ceylon Trade Agreement.

Railway Medical Officers

*297. { Shri P. R. Chakraverti:
Shri Yashpal Singh:
Shri Subodh Hansda:
Shri S. C. Samanta:
Shri Bibhuti Mishra:
Shri K. N. Tiwary:

Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have received a memorandum from Railway Medical Officers asking for better emoluments and status; and

(b) if so, Government's reaction thereto?

The Minister of State in the Ministry of Railways (Dr. Ram Subhag Singh): (a) and (b). Representations have been received from time to time from Assistant Surgeons for improvement in their scales of pay, non-practising allowance chances of promotion and grant of gazetted status. The Government have reviewed the