

Life Insurance Corporation

*583. { **Shri Nath Pal:**
Shri Himatsingka:
Shri Rameshwar Tantia:

Will the Minister of **Finance** be pleased to state:

(a) the steps, if any, taken by the Life Insurance Corporation to train and build a cadre of agents to serve policy holders;

(b) whether it is a fact that the practice of Benami agency is fairly widespread;

(c) if so the steps being taken to remedy it; and

(d) the number of agencies that have been terminated during the past five years?

The Minister of Planning (Shri B. B. R. Bhagat): (a) The Life Insurance Corporation has appointed instructors at the Divisional Offices for imparting training to agents both new and old. Training Sessions are organised in every Branch. In addition, trained Development Officers and Branch Officials also conduct training of agents.

(b) and (c). Government is not aware whether the practice of Benami agency is fairly widespread. The Corporation does not encourage Benami agencies and have in fact issued instructions to all offices to guard against such agencies. Specific complaints about Benamies are enquired into and if in any particular case it is established that the agency is benami, it is cancelled.

(d) The number of agencies that have been terminated during the past five years is as follows:—

1959	1,19,994
1960	51,029
1961	41,734
1962-63 (15 months)	65,968
1963-64	59,180

Income tax on Donation to Political Parties

*584. { **Shri P. K. Deo:**
Shri Narendra Singh Mahida:

Will the Minister of **Finance** be pleased to state:

(a) whether political parties are exempted from the operation of the Income-tax Act and Gift tax Act;

(b) if so which are those political parties; and

(c) whether the Indian National Congress has been assessed on their income of Rs. 98 lakhs from the donation of companies during 1961 to September, 1964?

The Deputy Minister in the Ministry of Finance (Shri Rameshwar Sahu): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) No, Sir. Under the law such donations do not constitute income and hence are not taxable in the hands of any political party. In the circumstances, no enquiry has been made as regards the quantum of such donations.

Revision of D. A. Formula

*585. { **Shri S. M. Banerjee:**
Shri V. V. Thevar:

Will the Minister of **Finance** be pleased to state:

(a) whether a final decision has since been taken to revise the dearness allowance formula in the light of the recommendations made by the Das Commission;

(b) if so, the nature of decision taken; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

The Minister of Planning (Shri B. B. R. Bhagat) (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) The matter is under consideration in consultation with the State Governments.

Rural Pilot Centres

- *586. {
 Shri D. C. Sharma:
 Shri Yashpal Singh:
 Shri Subodh Hansda:
 Shri S. C. Samanta:
 Shri Shree Narayan Das:
 Shri M. Malaichami:
 Shri Surendra Pal Singh:

Will the Minister of Finance be pleased to state:

(a) whether the State Bank of India propose to open a net-work of rural pilot centres in different parts of the country to provide short, medium and long-term credit for production, both agricultural and industrial, in the rural areas; and

(b) if so, the details of the proposal?

The Minister of Planning (Shri B. R. Bhagat): (a) and (b). The question is under consideration.

ग्रामीण क्षेत्रों के लिए गृह निर्माण योजना

- *587. {
 श्री मधु लिमये :
 श्रीमती मैमूना सुल्तान :
 श्री प्र० रं० चक्रवर्ती :

क्या निर्माण और आवास मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) क्या सरकार ने ग्रामीण क्षेत्रों के लिए गृह-निर्माण की कोई योजना तैयार की है या करने का विचार है ; और

(ख) यदि हाँ, तो उसकी मुख्य-मुख्य बातें क्या हैं ?

निर्माण और आवास मंत्री (श्री मेहर नन्द लाला): (क) और (ख) जो लोग देहात में रहते हैं उनका फायदे के लिए 1957 से

एक स्कीम चालू है और इस स्कीम का नाम "विलेज हाउसिंग प्राजैक्ट स्कीम" है। इस स्कीम के नीचे 5,000 गांवों में मकान बनाने या मकानों के सुधार के लिए कर्ज दिया जाता है। मकान की लागत का दो तिहाई, ज्यादा से ज्यादा 2,000 रुपये तक सरकारी कर्ज दिया जाता है, जो कि 20 साल की मियाद में वापस करना होता है।

Unaccounted Money

*588. Shrimati Maimoona Sultan: Will the Minister of Finance be pleased to state:

(a) whether undeclared wealth, in the form of jewellery and currency worth lakhs of rupees were seized in a fresh series of raids in Bombay in the fourth week of February this year;

(b) if so, how much worth of gold, diamonds and jewellery were seized; and

(c) what further steps have been taken to seize more black money in different parts of the country?

The Deputy Minister in the Ministry of Finance (Shri Rameshwar Sahu): (a) Yes.

(b) Rs. 7,25,360.

(c) The powers to search and seize are being effectively exercised in appropriate cases.

Donations to Political Parties by Companies

- *589. {
 Shri Surendranath Dwivedy:
 Shrimati Renu Chakravartty:

Will the Minister of Finance be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the resolution of the Bombay Shareholders' Association in which they have questioned the legality of donations by companies to political parties;