

Expenditures Incurred on Decoration of KRC Office

4645. SHRI MOHAN RAWALE: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the amount spent on the interior decoration of (i) Office of the Konkan Railway Corporation and (ii) residence of Chairman-cum-Managing Director of the Konkan Railway Corporation;

(b) the reasons for spending lavishly; and

(c) the steps proposed to be taken to ensure curtailment of avoidable expenditure by the Konkan Railway Corporation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MALIKARJUN): (a) (i) Rs. 80 lakhs.

(ii) Rs. 4.28 lakhs.

(b) and (c). The Office premises of Konkan Railway Corporation comprising two floors of a multi-storeyed building were purchased out-right from CIDCO. The premises were in the form of skeletal floors only which had to be converted into the office premises by partitioning the floors into offices' cubicles, accommodation for office staff, drawing office, Computer centre, Technical Library, Record and Store room, etc., duly providing necessary office furniture, lighting, fans and air-conditioning arrangements.

Admission in MBBS Course

4646. SHRI SYED SHAHABUDDIN: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of students domiciled in Jammu and Kashmir allotted seats for the MBBS Course in various government medical colleges of the country in 1992-93 at the discretion of the Union Government;

(b) the number of such students admitted to private medical colleges at the request or recommendation of the Union Government; and

(c) the number of students who have been admitted to the medical colleges in the State under the discretionary quota of the State Government in 1992-93?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI D.K. THARA DEVI SIDDHARTHA): (a) and (b). The Government of India have allocated 28 MBBS and 3 BDS seats to the State of Jammu and Kashmir from out of the Central Pool during the 1992-93 Session. Out of these seats, 2 MBBS seats are in the Mahatma Gandhi Institute of Medical Sciences, Wardha (Maharashtra) which is Government aided Institution. The selection of students against these seats is done by the State Government.

(c) Selection of students against the seats in the medical colleges in the state is done by the State Government.

Absorption of Surplus Labours

4647. SHRI AJAY MUKHOPADHAYAY: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the steps Government propose to take for redeployment of the casual workers including the contract labours rendered surplus due to abolition of steam locomotives;

(b) whether the work of handling coal and ash in loco sheds were of perennial nature;

(c) whether the contract labours who used to handle coal and ash in steam locomotives have been absorbed on railway employees in Western, Central, South Central and Southern Railways; and

(d) if so, the reasons for not absorbing

workers in other Railways including Eastern Railway?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MAL-LIKARJUN): (a) It is not the practice to engage casual labour in steam locomotive activities. As for the contractors labour, they are on the rolls of the contractors and no responsibility devolves on the Railways to redeploy them. Railways do not propose to redeploy and contractors labour rendered surplus due to abolition of steam locomotives.

(b) No, Sir. Though the work has been continuing over the years, it was not of a regular nature and had large fluctuations in volume from day to day and as of now, the steam traction has been mostly phased out.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

Pension Benefits

4648. SHRI RAM NAIK: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Supreme Court had given a decision of 17.12.82 in a case relating to extension of benefits of liberalised pension formula;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Pay Commission has recommended that a final one time option be given to change over to the Pension Scheme from 1.1.86 by refunding the Government contribution to Provident Fund received at the time of retirement;

(d) whether this recommendation not yet implemented by the Railway Administration; and

(e) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MAL-

LIKARJUN): (a) and (b). Yes, Sir. The Supreme Court in Writ Petition No. 5939-41 of 1980 delivered a judgment on 17.12.1982 in terms of which the benefit of Liberalised Pension Formula was to be extended to all Government Pensioners who were in receipt of pension as on 1.4.1979 under the various Pension Rules/Schemes, applicable to pensionable establishments, as amended from time to time.

(c) Fourth Pay Commission had made a general recommendation to the Government that it may consider feasibility of giving pension option to persons who retired from the Government under the Contributory Provident Fund Scheme on pay more than Rs. 500/- by refunding Government contribution alongwith interest credited to their Provident Fund Account at the time of their retirement.

(d) and (e). The above recommendation was examined by the Government but could not be accepted. Such persons had been given several options during their service period to come over to the pension scheme but had retained the Provident Fund Scheme at their own volition. They had been paid their dues as a one time settlement as per their option. It may also be mentioned that petitions for grant of pension option to such persons as have already been retired under Contributory Provident Fund Scheme were subsequently examined by the Supreme Court but could not be accepted by them.

Production of Rice in Andhra Pradesh

4649. SHRI J. CHOKKA RAO: Will the Minister of FOOD be pleased to state:

(a) the quantity of fine and super fine rice produced in Andhra Pradesh during the current year;

(b) the estimated quantity of rice procured by the Food Corporation of India therefrom for the Central Pool;

(c) whether there is any proposal to introduce State Trading in foodgrains to tide