

Commission will widen the disparity in income between the Government employees and private employees;

(c) the action proposed to be taken by the Government to ensure payment of stipulated wages/salary by Private organisations to its employees; and

(d) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM) : (a) to (d) Salaries payable to Government employees are determined by Government from time to time, while those payable to employees working in the private sector are negotiated and settled between the concerned employers and employees. The appropriate Government only fixes minimum wages as per provisions of the Minimum Wages Act, 1948 with respect to certain categories of workers who work in the notified scheduled employments in the private sector. Parity between wages and salaries of Government employees and of employees working in the private sector does not exist and is also not attempted.

Minting of Coins

6172. SHRI ASHOK PRADHAN : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) the number coins imported and minted in the Indian Mints during the last three years separately;

(b) the reasons for importing blanks coins;

(c) the expenditure incurred by the Government on import, year-wise;

(d) the concrete steps being taken by the Government for minting of these coins in the Indian Mints;

(e) whether the Government propose to import coins in large quantities during the current year; and

(f) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M.P. VEERENDRA KUMAR)

(a) No coins have been imported during the last three years. The coins minted in the Government Mints during the last three years are as under:-

Year	In million pieces (approx)
1994-95	1707
1995-96	1450
1996-97	1566

(b) The coin blanks are being imported to meet the gap between blanks made in our Mints and the requirement of blanks for making coins.

(c) The expenditure incurred on import of coin blanks during the last three years are as under:-

Year	In crores (approx)
1994-95	Rs. 39.65
1995-96	Rs. 66.91
1996-97	Rs. 76.10

(d) The Government Mints at Mumbai, Calcutta and Hyderabad are being modernised to increase their capacity to make blanks and coins.

(e) and (f) : As a one time measure, the Government has decided to import 700 million peices of Re. 1/- coins and 300 million pieces of Rs. 2/- coins.

[Translation]

State Electricity Boards

6173. SHRI LAKSHMAN SINGH : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Union Government have taken any decision for waiving off the power tariff outstanding against the State Electricity Boards and Public Undertakings;

(b) if so, the total amount likely to be waived off; and

(c) the details of authority, State Electricity Board and Public Undertaking who has recommended the waiving off this amount ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (DR. S. VENUGOPALACHARI) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Do not arise in view of (a) above.

DDA

6174. SHRI VISHWESHWAR BHAGAT : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) the details of the aims and objectives for which DDA was set up;

(b) the extent to which the aims and objectives have been fulfilled;

(c) whether the expenditure incurred on basic structure by DDA is included in the price of flats sold to persons who got their names registered all over India;

(d) if so, the rationale behind it; and

(e) whether there is any proposal to divest DDA from the responsibility of constructing the flats and constitute a separate housing corporation for the purpose ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN AFFAIRS AND EMPLOYMENT AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (DR. U. VENKATESWARLU) : (a) The Delhi Development Authority was set up under the Delhi Development Act, 1957. As per the Act, the aims and objectives of the DDA are :

"The objects of the Authority shall be to promote and secure the development of Delhi according to plan and for that purpose the Authority shall have the power to acquire, hold, manage and dispose of land and other property, to carry out building, engineering, mining and other operations, to execute works in connection with supply of water and electricity, disposal of sewage and other services and amenities and generally to do anything necessary or expedient for purposes of such development and for purposes incidental thereto;"

(b) Delhi's Master Plan 1962 was formulated by DDA and the same has been revised and new master plan with perspective upto 2001 has also been formulated. All development in Delhi is done as per the Master Plan as envisaged in the aims and objectives. DDA apart from developing land for various purposes such as commercial, recreational, horticultural, institutional and industrial etc., has also been taking up housing activity. It has constructed as well facilitated construction, by way of providing land to co-operative societies, auctioning plots etc., of more than 1 million dwelling units which provides shelter to almost half of the population of Delhi.

(c) and (d) DDA has reported that costing of flats constructed by it is done on "no profit no loss" basis and expenditure incurred on construction of housing projects is recovered from the allottees, as DDA does not get any grant or subsidy from the Government.

(e) In the context of the National Housing Policy and the approach to involve the private sector to a greater extent in the construction of houses, a view has since been taken that no separate Housing Board is necessary.

Vacancy of Chairman

6175. SHRI MUNNI LAL : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether after the resignation of Chairman of Rajghat Gandhi Smadhi Samiti, this post has been lying vacant for the last two years;

(b) the reasons for delay in the appointment of the Chairman; and

(c) the measures taken by the Government for the redressal of complaints about the malpractices committed at Smadhi Sthal ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN AFFAIRS AND EMPLOYMENT AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (DR. U. VENKATESWARLU) : (a) and (b) It is not correct that post of Chairman, Rajghat Samadhi Committee is lying vacant for the last 2 years. Sh. Sadiq Ali, Chairman, Rajghat Samadhi Committee had tendered his resignation from the post on 9.7.96. The question of appointment of a successor is under active consideration of the Government and a decision would be taken shortly.

(c) No such complaints have been brought to the

[English]

Consulate General Office

6176. DR. ARUN KUMAR SARMA :

SHRI KESHAB MAHANTA :

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal of the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia to open its Honorary Consulate General's office in India;

(b) if so, the details therefor; and

(c) the present status of that proposal ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI RAMAKANT D. KHALAP) : (a) to (c) There is a proposal from the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia to open an Honorary Consulate General in India. However, there are still certain diplomatic issues which need to be resolved before Government of India can think in terms of permitting the Government of the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia to open an Honorary Consulate General in India.

SSI

6177. SHRI ANANT GUDHE : Will the MINISTER OF FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the problems facing by small scale industrial units have been discussed and performance of this sector reviewed in the recent meeting of State Ministers/Secretaries held at New Delhi;

(b) if so, the details of the deliberation and decisions taken to boost-up the performance of small scale sector in the country;

(c) the package of incentives formulated and fresh directions to banks and financial institutions issued for attending to needs of languishing units; and

(d) the details of action plan worked out for 1997-98 for healthy growth of small sector in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M.P. VEERENDRA KUMAR) : (a) to (d) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

[Translation]

Allotment of D.D.A. Property

6178. SHRI MRUTYUNJAYA NAYAK : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether attention of the Government has been drawn to the news item appearing in the Hindi Daily "Navbharat Times" captioned "DDA Nirmal-walon par bhoo-mafia ka kabza" dated January 14, 1997;

(b) if so, the action being taken against the con-