

being paid in Bilaspur Branch of LIC under Shimla division despite entitlement for the same. I want to know the reasons therefor.

[Translation]

SHRI DALBIR SINGH : What I am saying is that since Bilaspur is situated at a height of less than 750 metres the employees working there do not come under the purview of this allowance. As regards Nahan this station is connected with Dehradun and Ambala too and hence this place is also not covered under eligibility criterion. So far as the question of payment of allowances to the employees is concerned, the employees working in eligible branches are getting them. Nahan and Bilaspur branches are not eligible for these allowances.

SHRI ROSHAN LAL : I would like to tell the hon. Minister that Bilaspur comes under Shimla division. He has said that generally all employees of L.I.C. working in Shimla division are getting these allowances. But it is not a fact. The employees of Bilaspur branch of L.I.C. are not getting these allowances.

SHRI DALBIR SINGH : The hon. Member has perhaps not read the reply carefully. These allowances are paid in areas which are located at a height of more than 7500 feet. Since neither Nahan nor Bilaspur are situated at this height, employees of these branches are not eligible for it. (Interruptions)

PROF. PREM DHUMAL : Mr. Speaker, Sir, according to my information, the Central Government has taken a decision on 31st May, 1991 to pay compensatory allowance to the Central Government employees working in Himachal Pradesh at par with the Himachal Pradesh State Government employees. But the employees of L.I.C. and other Public Undertakings are not covered under that order. As regards the criterion of height about which the hon. Minister has just now mentioned, I want to point out that there are some places which are certainly located at a lower height, yet they

are very near to the places of high altitude. The prices of commodities at such places are as high as in the high altitude town. I would like to know whether Government would pay Hill Allowance to the employees of Public Undertakings, such as L.I.C. and banks, especially when this allowance is being paid to the State Government employees without any height criterion?

SHRI DALBIR SINGH : I want a separate notice for this, particularly for handicapped employees. (Interruptions)

PROF. PREM DHUMAL : This question is linked with the main question. (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : You give a separate notice for this.

LOANS ADVANCED BY INDIA TO FOREIGN COUNTRIES

[English]

*268. SHRI R. JEEVARATHINAM : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) the amount of loans advanced by India to various countries during 1989, 1990 and 1991 (till date), country-wise and year-wise; and

(b) the broad terms and conditions on which such loans have been advanced?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI KAMESHWAR THAKUR) : (a) and (b) A statement is laid on the table of the House

STATEMENT

Government of India has been extending Government-to-Government credits to friendly developing countries to finance exports mainly of capital goods from the country. During the financial years 1989-90, 1990-91 and the current year 1991-92 (till date), Government of India has extended for Government-to-Government rupee credits. The details including the

broad terms and conditions thereof are as under :—

| Broad terms | Countries to whom credits have been extended. | | | |
|---|---|------------------------|-----------------------|--|
| | Guyana | Vietnam | Mauritius | Cambodia |
| (i) Date of the Credit Agreement (and the year) | 28-9-1989 (1989-90) | 14-4-1990 (1990-91) | 5-4-1991 (1991-92) | 5-7-1991 (1991-92) |
| (ii) Amount of the Credit | Rs. 10 crore | Rs. 10 crore | Rs. 5 crore | Rs. 1.50 crore |
| (iii) Repayment period (including moratorium) | 15 years (3 years) | 14 years (4 years) | 15 years (3 years) | 15 years (3 years) |
| (iv) Interest | 5% p.a. | 5% p.a. | 5% p.a. | 5% p.a. |
| (v) Credit Coverage | 90% of F.O.B. value | 100% of F.O.B. value | 90% of F.O.B. value | 100% of F.O.B. value/100% C&F value upto Ho Chi Minh City, in case where shipments are made on Indian vessels. |

In addition, an amount of Rs. 2.20 crores was advanced as loan to Bhutan during the financial year 1989-90 towards construction of the Chukha Hydel project in Bhutan. This loan component is repayable over a period of 15 years (with 3 years grace period) in annual equated instalments and carries interest of 5% per annum.

SHRI R. JEEVARATHINAM : Mr. Speaker, Sir, an amount of Rs. 10 crores each has been given as loan to Guyana and Vietnam at 5 per cent rate of interest per annum in the year 1989-90 when the country was facing financial crisis. Why was such a big amount given at lower rate of interest? In what way has it boosted our foreign exchange earnings and what are the capital goods which have been exported from our country to these countries?

SHRI RAMESHWAR THAKUR : Mr. Speaker, Sir, so far as the loans given in the last three years that is, 1989-90, 1990-91 and 1991-92 are concerned, all are given at 5 per cent rate of interest.

SHRI R. JEEVARATHINAM : Sir, the hon. Minister has mentioned about the

hydel project in Bhutan. I would like to know what are the future projects at hand for providing loan on Government to Government basis to our neighbouring countries.

SHRI RAMESHWAR THAKUR : Sir, so far as Bhutan is concerned, during the year 1989-90, we have granted an amount of Rs. 2.20 crores for the construction of the Chukha Hydel project. This loan component is repayable over a period of 15 years, with 3 years grace period, in annual equated instalments and carries interest of 5 per cent per annum.

So far as the other countries are concerned, we have provided for further loans to some friendly and neighbouring countries. They are for the current year, 1991-92. The total amount involved is Rs. 52.64 crores and the countries with whom the negotiations are on are Zambia Surinam and some other countries.

[Translation]

PROF. RASA SINGH RAWAT : Sir, through you, I would like to know whether repayment of loans is being made regularly and in accordance with the terms and

conditions of loans by the neighbouring friendly countries of Asia and Africa ? Are any special concessions being given to some countries in order to strengthen our friendship with them or in consideration of the particular circumstances obtaining there

SHRI RAMESHWAR THAKUR : We have trade relations with all neighbouring countries and loan is advanced to them after taking into account all aspects. So far as the question of repayment of loan is concerned we are receiving timely and regular payments from Sri Lanka, Bangladesh, Mauritius, Ghana, Zambia and some other countries. But there are some other countries like Vietnam, Tanzania, Zimbabwe, Uganda who have some difficulties in repayment as per our terms and conditions. In these cases, Government of India has rescheduled the repayment and allowed them extra time enabling them to repay the loan in easy instalments. The Government is also exploring the possibilities of importing such items from these countries which are needed here so as to make the repayment of loan easy. The Government is making efforts in this direction

SHRI HARI KISHORE SINGH : I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether talks are going on with Nepal which is our next door neighbour in the matter of power generation? If so, what is the progress in the matter and what would be the conditions of repayment of loan?

SHRI RAMESHWAR THAKUR : Nepal is our neighbouring country and our relation with them are very close. From time to time, we have been holding talks with them in connection with exchange of rupee and a number of projects. Our Ministry of External Affairs is holding talks with neighbouring countries like Nepal, Bhutan and Bangladesh on such matters. Though the Ministry of Finance does not come into picture directly, yet we shall try to make available the details in respect of any specific projects if the hon. Member so desires.

[English]

MAINTENANCE OF NATIONAL HIGHWAY NO. 44

*269. **SHRI PETER G. MARBANIANG :** Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government of Meghalaya has requested the Union Government to hand over the running and maintenance of National Highway No. 44 from Jowai to Rotacherra (Badarpur) to the State's PWD; and

(b) if so the reaction of the Union Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI S. KRISHAN KUMAR) : (a) Yes. Sir.

(b) The State Government has been informed that it is essential that the road, in view of its operational importance, continues to remain with the Border Roads Organisation for development and maintenance.

SHRI PETER G. MARBANIANG : Sir, National Highway No. 44 runs from Shillong up to Rotacherra on the border of Assam. Now one part of the Highway from Shillong up to Jowai, roughly about 100 kms. is owned and maintained by State PWD. The other part of the Highway from Jowai to Rotacherra is being maintained by GRET, Border Roads Organisation. We find that GREP is not maintaining the road properly and there have been complaints again and again from the State Government and also from the different organisations using the Highway that the maintenance is very poor.

This National Highway has also got two bypasses, one from Shillong to Sohryngkham and another one from Jowai to Nongbah. Now the local people in Jowai hills are very much against running of this road and maintenance of this road by GREP.

The hon. Minister has said about the operational importance. May I know what