

was awarded 'Ayurved Chakravarty' by the Government of Sri Lanka and 'Rashtrapati Award' for Sanskrit by the Government of India. He was also recipient of several other awards from various Universities and other organisations.

Shri Ananta Tripathi Sarma was associated what a number of cultural organisations. He had himself established several institutions and awards like 'Rohini-Gadadhar Gold Medal' and 'Bishnupriya Memorial Gold Medal'

In his death, the nation has lost a great scholar of Indian languages, a notable exponent of Ayurveda and the House, an able parliamentarian.

He passed away on 11 July, 1991 at the age of 86.

Shrimati Mukul Bannerjee was a member of the Fifth Lok Sabha during 1971-77 representing New Delhi constituency.

Shrimati Bannerjee was a well known social and political worker. She took keen interest in the welfare of weaker section of the society, minorities and slum dwellers.

Shrimati Bannerjee was deeply involved in the various programmes and activities concerning the welfare of women. She ceaselessly worked to create political and social awareness among the women and represented India at the United Nations Seminar on Women's role in the Economic life of developing countries held at Moscow in 1970.

As a journalist, she was associated with the all India Newspapers Editors Conference. She also edited 'Women on the March' and 'Mahila Pragati Ke Path Par'.

Shrimati Mukul Bannerjee passed away on 24 Jul, 1991 at Patna at the age of 66.

We deeply mourn the loss of these friends and I am sure the House will join me in expressing our condolences to the bereaved families.

The House may now stand in silence for a short while as a mark of respect to the deceased.

The Members then stood in silence for a short while

11.05 hrs.

ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

[English]

HILL AND CONVEYANCE ALLOWANCES TO HANDICAPPED

*267. SHRI ROSHAN LAL : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

a) whether hill and conveyance allowances are not being paid to handicapped employees in some branches of the Life Insurance Corporation (LIC) under Shimla division despite entitlement for the same:

(b) if so the names of such branches: and

(c) the steps taken by the Government to ensure immediate payment of these allowances at the said branches ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI DALBIR SINGH) : (a) Hill and Conveyance Allowances to the blind and orthopaedically handicapped employees of the Life Insurance Corporation including those under Shimla Division are being paid as per the Rules of the Corporation.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Does not arise since the allowances are paid as per Ruels of the Corporation.

[Translation]

SHRI ROSHAN LAL : The reply given by the hon. Minister does not seem to be correct.

[English]

Perhaps the Minister is not aware that Hill allowance to the general employees and conveyance allowance to the physically handicapped employees is not

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