

tified seeds to the cotton growers, stepping up of Intensive Cotton Development Programme identification of important districts in the major cotton producing States for concentration of efforts by preparation of special Cotton Production Programme, improvement in plant surveillance measures, improvement in irrigation facilities etc.

[Translation]

Rate of Interest on Provident Fund

4255. SHRI RAMESH CHAND TOMAR :
DR. C. SILVERA :

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to increase the rate of interest on provident fund; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI SHANTARAM POT-DUKHE) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) In view of the tax benefits available to General Provident Fund subscribers, the current interest rate of 12% per annum is considered reasonable.

Payment of Dearness Allowance to Government Employees

4256. SHRI RAMESH CHAND TOMAR : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the instalments of Dearness Allowance given to the Central Government employees whose basic pay exceeds Rs. 3500 are deposited in their provident fund account;

(b) whether in view of exorbitant increase in prices the Government propose to give the instalments of Dearness Allowance in cash to the above category of employees also; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI SHANTARAM POT-DUKHE) : (a) Under the existing orders, the instalments of Dearness Allowance due from 1-7-90 onwards are not payable in cash to the Central Government employees drawing pay above Rs. 3500 p. m. but instead are credited to their respective Provident Fund Accounts.

(b) and (c) The additional instalment of Dearness Allowance due from 1-7-91 is payable with the salary of September, 1991. The mode of payment will be decided when the instalment becomes payable.

[English]

Depreciation on Vehicles and Machinery

4257. SHRI RAJNATH SONKAR SHASTRI : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether a large number of vehicles were purchased during the first three months of 1991 by the business community in order to claim depreciation for the year 1990-91;

(b) if so, the reasons for allowing full depreciation on such vehicles/machinery etc. bought at the fag end of the financial year instead of allowing only the proportionate depreciation; and

(c) the steps taken or proposed to

be taken by the Government to check the erosion of revenue ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI RAMESHWAR THAKUR) : (a) and (b) data regarding the number of vehicles purchased by persons carrying on business for claiming depreciation is not available as no separate records are maintained for this purpose.

(c) It is proposed under clause 11 of the Finance (No. 2) Bill, 1991 to restrict the depreciation in respect of assets used for a period of less than one hundred eighty days to 50% of the amount of depreciation admissible under the Income-tax Act.

Evasion of Taxes by Traders in Delhi

4258. SHRI RAJNATH SONKAR SHASTRI : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are aware that unscrupulous traders in Delhi build up their cash books by showing sales in cash whereas such sales are actually made on credit and they keep such bills with them to be realised later on;

(b) if so, the number of such cases detected by the income tax and sales tax authorities during the last three years and the action taken thereon;

(c) whether the Government propose to launch a concerted drive to apprehend such unscrupulous traders in Delhi; and

(d) if not, the reasons for allowing traders to convert the black money into white money?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI RAMESHWAR THAKUR) : (a) and (b) For the purposes of Delhi Sales Tax Act, 1975, cash sales and credit sales are treated at par, as sales tax is leviable on both cash sales as well as credit sales.

In the cases taken up for investigation by Income-tax authorities in Delhi in the last three years, such a modus operandi has not come to notice.

(c) and (d) In view of reply to (a) and (b), does not arise.

Non-availability of Items in Customs Disposal Shops

4259. SHRI RAJNATH SONKAR SHASTRI : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether textiles, sarees and other goods are sold by the customs disposal shops to co-operative institutions and N. C. C. F. in larger quantities rather than to the general public for their personal use;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor and the steps taken to sell maximum items to the members of general public;

(c) whether public is greatly inconvenienced due to frequent closure and non-availability of goods in these shops; and

(d) if so, the steps taken by the Government to improve the functioning of the customs disposal shops in the country, particularly in Delhi?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI RAMESHWAR THAKUR) : (a) to (d) Confiscated textiles, sarees and other consumer goods are mainly