

(c) On the basis of the population of its Urban Agglomeration as shown in the 1971 census, Gwalior is already classified as a B-2 class city and is eligible for the payment of compensatory (city) allowance to the Central Government employees. For the payment of house rent allowance, however, since the population of the Gwalior city as per 1971 census does not exceed 4,00,000, it is classified only as 'C' class town.

Export/Import of Cast Acrylic Sheets

2880. SHRI BHAGIRATH BHANWAR: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND CIVIL SUPPLIES AND COOPERATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any export or import of cast acrylic sheets from India; and

(b) if so, the price of the product indigenous and imported?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND CIVIL SUPPLIES AND COOPERATION (SHRI MOHAN DHARIA): (a) While import of non-pearlized acrylic sheets is not allowed, that of pearlized acrylic sheets is allowed on restricted basis to the manufacturers of acrylic buttons.

There were imports and exports of polyacrylate sheets during 1975-76 and 1976-77 (April—February, 77).

(b) The average price of imported polyacrylate sheets during 1976-77 was Rs. 5.43 per kg. The price of indigenous acrylic sheet varies according to thickness and size of the sheet. Generally a 3 mm sheet 3' x 4' (weighing approximately 4 kg.) costs between Rs. 100 and Rs. 150.

Soft Loan Policy of Nationalised Banks

2881. SHRI T. S. SHRANGARE: Will the Minister of FINANCE AND REVENUE AND BANKING be pleased to state:

(a) whether the nationalised banks have followed the Central Govern-

ment's "soft loan policy" for the industrialisation of backward areas during the 1976-77;

(b) if so, what is the amount disbursed by them; and

(c) the amounts already disbursed by the banks in the districts particularly Aurangabad, Bhir, Nanded, Parbhani and Osmanabad which have been declared as backward by the Planning Commission?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE AND REVENUE AND BANKING (SHRI H. M. PATEL): (a) to (c). Presumably, the Hon'ble Member is referring to the loans given by nationalised banks at a concessional rate of interest in industrially backward areas under the Industrial Development Bank of India's Refinance Scheme. Information in respect of such assistance, if any, disbursed by the nationalised banks in the industrially backward areas and in particular in the districts of Aurangabad, Bhir, Nanded, Parbhani and Osmanabad is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House to the extent available.

Fresh Investment in Coal Industry

2882. SHRI K. PRADHANI: Will the Minister of FINANCE AND REVENUE AND BANKING be pleased to state the amount of fresh investment in the coal industry in the form of preference and equity share capital and long term loans given by public financial institutions over the last three years?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE AND REVENUE AND BANKING (SHRI H. M. PATEL): During the last three financial years in the Unit Trust of India, Industrial Reconstruction Corporation of India, Industrial Finance Corporation of India and the Industrial Credit and Investment Corporation of India have neither made any fresh investment in coal industry in the form of pre-