

(a) whether Central Coal Washeries Organisation which was under Steel Authority of India Ltd. has been merged with the Bharat Coking Coal Limited ;

(b) whether some of the officers who were under SAIL firms are yet to submit their option ; and

(c) if so, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL, MINES AND COAL : (SHRI VASANT SATHE:

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c). The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Proposal to Wind up SAIL and Form Separate Authority for each Steel Plant

7203. **SHRI BASUDEB ACHARIA :** Will the Minister of STEEL, MINES AND COAL be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have taken a decision to wind up Steel Authority of India Ltd., and to form separate authority for each Steel plant ; and

(b) if so, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF STEEL (SHRI K. NATWAR SINGH) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

Rules Regarding Promotion to Employees of Regional Rural Banks

7204. **SHRI MADAN PANDEY :** Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have framed rules and regulations to provide promotion opportunities to employees of the Regional Rural Banks and if so, whether any agency has also been constituted for their implementation ; and

(b) whether these rules and regu-

lously and if not, the steps being taken to implement those ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY : (a) and (b). The National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD) have after consultation with the Government issued a set of guidelines on December 31, 1984 to all the regional rural banks which *inter alia* provide for promotional avenues for the staff in such banks. Action regarding framing of draft regulations by NABARD on the basis of these guidelines is in hand. The regional rural banks will thereafter adopt these regulations as an integral part of their service regulations. NABARD which is entrusted with the overall supervision of the functioning of regional rural banks, is expected to ensure compliance of the guidelines by regional rural banks.

Difference in Pay Scales of Employees of Regional Rural Banks Serving in U.P. and West Bengal

7205. **SHRI MADAN PANDEY :** Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is any difference between the pay scales of employees serving in Regional Rural Banks in Uttar Pradesh and Rural Banks in West Bengal ; and

(b) if so, the reason therefore along-with the steps being taken by Government to bring parity in their payscales ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY) : (a) and (b). As per provision contained in the Regional Rural Banks Act the remuneration of RRB employees is determined with regard to the salary structure of employees of the State Government and the local authorities of comparable level and status in the concerned Regional Rural Bank's notified area. Since the pay structures of employees of U.P. and West Bengal Governments are different, difference between the pay

rural banks in these two States is quite natural. Government do not contemplate any steps for bringing parity in the pay scales of regional rural bank employees working in different States.

Posting of Officers of Sponsored Banks

7206. SHRI MADAN PANDEY : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether any period is specified for the posting of officers of sponsoring banks at one place ;

(b) if so, whether this policy is being followed ; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY) : (a) to (c). Under the Regional Rural Banks Act 1976 it is the duty of the sponsor bank to aid and assist the Regional Rural Banks sponsored by it *inter alia* in the form of recruitment and training of personnel during the first five years of the functioning of the Regional Rural Bank and to provide such managerial and financial assistance as may be mutually agreed upon between the sponsor bank and the concerned Regional Rural Bank.

Chairman of Regional Rural Banks are generally appointed on deputation from sponsor banks for a period of three years. No specific duration of posting of other officers on deputation from sponsor banks at one place has been laid down. They are posted as per the administrative requirements of each Regional Rural Bank.

Declaration of Cochin as B-1 City

7207. PROF. K. V. THOMAS : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether any request has been received from the Central Government employees in Cochin to declare Cochin city as a B-1 city ; and

(b) if so, the steps taken in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY) : (a) and (b). In the recent past no such request has been received. Cities are classified on the basis of population as revealed in decennial census. The last such classification was done in February, 1983 on the basis of 1981 census. As per the 1981 census report, the population of Cochin city is 5,13,249. Accordingly it has been classified as B-2. On the basis of population criterion, Cochin city does not qualify for B-1 status.

Change in Financial Year

**7208. KUMARI PUSHPA DEVI ;
SHRI SRIBALLAV PANIG-
RAHI ;
DR. G. VIJAYA RAMA RAO :**

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the proposal to change the financial year from present April-March to January-December is under the consideration of Government ;

(b) if so, when necessary steps are proposed to be taken in this regard ; and

(c) the reasons of changing the financial year from April-March to January-December ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANA DHANA POOJARY) : (a) to (c). A copy of the Conclusions and Recommendations of the Committee on Change in Financial Year in its Report submitted to Government on 27th April, 1985 is being separately laid on the Table of the House today. The Report is yet to be considered by Government.

Import of Iron Ore by Malaysia from India

7209. KUMARI PUSHPA DEVI : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :