

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 :