

Facilities Proposed for Class III and IV Employees of L. I. C.

4590. SHRI HARISH RAWAT : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether any talks were held last month regarding the demands between the high officers of the Life Insurance Corporation and the representatives of its employees' union; and

(b) if so, the details of the facilities proposed for the Class III and IV employees of the Corporation ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY) : (a) Yes, Sir. Talks were held in February, 1985 between the Management of the Life Insurance Corporation and the representatives of the employees' unions.

(b) Based on the understanding reached between the Management and the Employees' Unions, Government issued a Notification under Section 48 of the Life Insurance Corporation of India Act, 1956 on the 11th April, 1985, revising the terms and conditions of service of Class III and IV employees of the Corporation.

Change in Criteria Adopted for Opening of Commercial Banks in Hill Areas

4591. SHRI HARISH RAWAT : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have any proposal to change the existing criteria adopted for opening commercial banks in hill areas throughout the country;

(b) if not, whether Government are aware that larger parts of these areas are not getting the facilities which are being provided by these banks; and

(c) if so, the steps Government propose to take to ensure that these facilities are made available in all the parts of hill areas ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN

THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY) : (a) to (c). The basic objectives of the branch expansion policy have been to accelerate the pace of expansion of bank offices in the unbanked rural and semi-urban areas. Under the branch licensing policy for the period April 1982 to March 1985, Hilly Regions, regions sparsely populated and tribal areas were given special consideration and branch expansion in such areas was allowed on a comparatively liberal basis. Centres for opening bank offices are generally identified by State Governments and they are expected to take into account special needs of different areas including Hilly Regions. The branch expansion policy for the Seventh Five Year Plan Period has not yet been finalised.

[English]

Diversion of Amount Sanctioned for Various Projects by Ministries

4592. SHRI JAGANNATH PATTNAIK : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) the respective amounts sanctioned by Government for various projects and works for 1984-85 which lapsed on 31 March, 1985, Ministry-wise;

(b) whether cases have come to the notice of Government that the sanctioned amounts were diverted by the Ministries to other projects and works during 1984-85; and

(c) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY) : (a) to (c). The appropriation accounts for the year 1984-85 have not yet been finalised. As per the recommendations of the Business Advisory Committee of Lok Sabha, the date prescribed for the finalisation of appropriation accounts for 1984-85 is 30th November, 1985.

It may, however, be added that the projects' estimates prepared by the Departments concerned are approved by the

Expenditure Finance Committee/Public Investment Board, as the case may be, and the funds are provided in the Budget after approval by the Planning Commission etc. as a part of annual plan exercise. The amounts provided for the various projects approved for 1984-85 were indicated in the Budget documents/demands for grants Ministry-wise, presented to Parliament. The amounts actually spent upto 31st March 1985 and funds which lapsed on that date will be compiled by the respective accounting authorities of the Departments concerned. These figures are compiled financial year-wise and in due course placed on the Table of each House of Parliament in the form of appropriation accounts. The Ministry of Finance do not maintain centrally any statistics with regard to the utilisation of amounts as sanctioned in the annual plan or diversions, if any, of sanctioned amounts of one project for utilisation for another.

**Lignite Reserves Found in Kapuradi
in Barmer District, Rajasthan**

4593. SHRI VIRDHI CHANDER JAIN: Will the Minister of STEEL, MINES AND COAL be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Union Government have completed a comprehensive survey through Mineral Exploration Corporation Limited and Geological Survey of India in Kapuradi village in Barmer District of Rajasthan; and

(b) if so, the estimated quantity of lignite reserves found and the details of the project report thereof ?

**THE MINISTER OF STEEL, MINES
AND COAL (SHRI VASANT SATHE) :**
(a) No, Sir.

(b) The Mineral Exploration Corporation, on the basis of exploration and laboratory work done upto 1.10.84 has made an interim estimate of 78.67 million tonnes of gross lignite reserves within 1 : 15 lignite overburden ratio in combined and middle lignite horizons in Kapuradi. Projects for mining the lignite can be drawn up only after closer drilling is completed.

**Writing Off of Interest on Loans
Taken by Small Scale Industries from
Nationalised Banks**

4594. SHRI ASUTOSH LAW : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Union Government have any proposal to write off the interests accrued on the loans taken by the sick small scale industries from the different nationalised banks which are overdue for many years;

(b) whether considering the deplorable condition of the industries in West Bengal, Union Government have any proposal to reduce bank interest in case of loans taken by the sick small scale industries;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons thereof ?

**THE MINISTER OF STATE IN
THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI
JANARDHANA POOJARY) :** (a) No, Sir.

(b) There is no proposal under the consideration of Government of India to reduce bank interest in case of loans taken by the sick small scale industries in West Bengal.

(c) Does not arise.

(d) Reserve Bank of India has allowed Banks some discretion to reduce their rates of interest on a case by case basis where the rehabilitation of a sick unit, considered viable, so necessitates.

**Shifting of Sunflag Steel Plant from
Bhandara**

4595. SHRI MUKUL WASNIK : Will the Minister of STEEL, MINES AND COAL be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government are aware of the reported shifting of Sunflag Steel Plant from Bhandara due to the non-availability of adequate water supply; and

(b) if so, the action taken to retain the plant at Bhandara ?