

Non-interest Bearing Advance to Central Government Employees

4249. SHRI HAFIZ MOHD. SIDDIQ: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Fourth Pay Commission recommended that all employees may be allowed a non-interest bearing advance equal to half a month's pay once a year in place of festival advance, table fan purchase etc.; and

(b) if so, the details of the action taken in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF EXPENDITURE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (a) and (b). The Fourth Pay Commission had recommended abolition of the facility of advances from General Provident Fund and to avoid hardship to the employees on account of this and to cater to their general requirement, the Commission had further recommended that the employee may be allowed an interest free advance equal to half-a-month's basic pay once in a year recoverable in 10 monthly instalments without linking it to any specific purpose. The recommendation to tighten the rules for advances and withdrawals from General Provident Fund is receiving the attention of the Government. Action to consider implementation of the recommendation of the Pay Commission for grant of interest free advance equal to half-a-month's basic pay to the employees will be initiated after a decision has been taken on the recommendation of the commission on General Provident Fund Rules.

Housing Facilities in Cochin Naval Base

4250. Prof. K. V. THOMAS : Will the Minister of Defence be pleased to state :

(a) the steps taken to provide housing facilities to Naval personnel and civilian employees in Cochin Naval Base; and

(b) the cost of these housing projects ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF DEFENCE PRODUCTION AND SUPPLIES IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PATIL (a) and (b). Besides 1376 residential

quarters already available, 1166 quarters, costing over Rs. 35 crores, are under construction for meeting the needs of Services and civilian personnel at Cochin Naval Base.

Stock Accumulation in N.T.C. (W.B.A.B.O.)

4251. SHRI V. SREENIVASA PRASAD : Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state :

(a) whether huge stocks and inventories have been accumulated in the NTC (WBABO) Limited, Calcutta during the last months;

(b) whether its management is unable to sell the products for want of administrative efficiency and commercial expertise; and

(c) if so, the facts thereof and the action being taken/proposed to be taken ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI S. KRISHNA KUMAR) : (a) to (c). The average monthly stock with NTC (WBABO) Limited during the period April-September 1987 has declined to Rs. 7.20 crores from Rs. 7.95 crores during the corresponding period last year.

Establishment of Vishakhapatnam FTZ

4252. SHRI BHATTAM SRIRAMA-MURTY: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether State Government of Andhra Pradesh has allotted 500 acres of land to meet the requirement of the Free Trade Zone to be established at Vishakhapatnam in Andhra Pradesh ;

(b) whether Government had earlier announced for establishment of Free Trade Zone in Vishakhapatnam ;

(c) whether the proposal is now kept in abeyance ; and

(d) If so, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES AND MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI RAM NIWAS MIRDHA) : (a) to (d). Government have