

that Shipping Corporation of India Ltd., need not operate the passenger shipping service between Nagapattinam and Singapore, as it is not an economically viable proposition. However, if any private party wants to operate the service, the Government would consider the same favourably.

Retrenchment of Employees in STC

5205. SHRI ANADI CHARAN DAS: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the State Trading Corporation propose to retrench its surplus employees;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the procedure proposed to be adopted in this regard;

(d) how the interests of the SC/ST employees will be protected;

(e) whether all the employees proposed to be retrenched by the STC, will be accommodated in some other Public Sector Organisations; and

(f) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) There is, at present, no proposal in State Trading Corporation (STC) for retrenchment of employees.

(b) to (f). Do not arise.

[*Translation*]

Increase in Price of Polyester Cloth

5206. SHRI RAJVEER SINGH: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) the number of times the prices of polyester cloth was increased during the last two years and the reasons therefor;

(b) whether the Union Government have formulated any scheme to check the prices;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI ASHOK GEHLOT): (a) to (d). At present there is no statutory control on prices of polyester cloth. These are governed by forces of demand-supply and consumers preference. The prices of polyester are reviewed by the government and remedial measures are taken whenever situation warrants. In the past government had held discussions with spinners and weavers of Polyester Filament Yarn and as a result thereof it was possible to facilitate supply of yarn to the weavers at reasonable prices for production of polyester blended fabrics. Frequent fluctuations in the cost of inputs and other elements of cost during the last two years had led to the increase in the retail prices of selected sorts of fabrics with polyester content on number of occasions though it accounted for about 13% between June, 1989 and June, 1991. Further Government feels that prices of such cloth be allowed to be determined by market forces whereby prices are kept under check to some extent on account of interse competition between Mill sector as well as units in powerloom sector.

[*English*]

Demands of RRB Workers Association

5207. SHRI ARJUN SINGH YADAV:
SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA
RAJE:
SHRI RAM LAKHAN SINGH
YADAV:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the government have received any charter of demands from the Regional Rural Banks, Workers Association in the last week of July 1991;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government have taken any action on their demands;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI DALBIR SINGH): (a) Yes, Sir. Government have been receiving demands from several unions and associations of employees of Regional Rural Banks (RRBs).

(b) The demands of Regional Rural Bank unions/associations, inter alia, include;

i) formation of Rural Bank of India.

ii) implementation of the award of the National Industrial Tribunal.

iii) rectification of alleged anomalies in the matter of equation of posts of Regional Rural Banks with those in the sponsor banks and in the fitment formula.

iv) Payment of arrears of pay etc. arising as a result of fixation of pay in sponsor bank pay scales.

v) regularisation of temporary and part-time messengers.

vi) Grant of rural compensatory allowance for performing duties in rural areas.

(c) to (e). Government has no proposal

under consideration for formation of a Rural Bank of India. The National Industrial Tribunal gave its award on 30.4.90. Government subsequently constituted an Equation Committee to equate the posts of Regional Rural Banks with those in the sponsor banks for the purpose of grant of sponsor bank pay scales to the employees of RRBs on the basis of the award of the Tribunal. The award of the Tribunal and the recommendations of the Equation Committee have been accepted. Government issued orders on 22nd February, 1991 granting sponsor bank pay scales with effect from 1.9.1987. The employees have been paid arrears of pay consequent to the refixation of pay in the new pay scales w.e.f. 1.2.1991. The mechanism for the payment of arrears for the period 1.9.87 to 31.12.90 will be considered by National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development in consultation with Reserve Bank of India. The Equation Committee recommended that the Chairman of each Regional Rural Bank should ascertain the position of part-time messengers regarding their working hours and equate them with part of full-time messengers of the concerned sponsor banks engaged for the same hours of work. A Working Group has recently been created in NABARD to frame promotion policy and service rules of RRB employees and also attend to any other relevant matters.

Setting up of Coast Guard District Headquarters in Orissa

5208. DR. KARTIKESWARPATRA: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to set up a Coast Guard District Headquarters in Orissa; and

(b) if so, the details of the progress made in this regard?