

4th Pay Commission. Government is not proposing to change the scheme.

Acquisition of Shoes for Armed Forces

3303. SHRI PRAMOTHES MUKHERJEE: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether in pursuance to the Government's decision the armed forces have been taking their supplies of boots or shoes from any Central Government undertakings;

(b) if not, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the Government have got the question of cost examined by the BICP; and

(d) if so, the facts and details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI MALLIKARJUN): (a) to (d). After fully booking the capacity of the Ordnance Equipment Factory, orders for procurement of boots are placed on various suppliers including PSUs, in accordance with Government Orders in force from time to time. According to orders presently in force, PSUs are not eligible for any price preference, but if the price quoted by PSUs is within 10% of the lowest valid price bid, purchase preference may be granted to the public enterprise concerned, *i.e.*, the PSU will have to make the supply at the lowest valid bid rate. Under these orders, involvement of Bureau of Industrial Costs and Prices (BICP) is not required.

Development of Cities as Magnet Towns

3304. SHRI PROBEN DEKA: Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the names of the cities and towns proposed to be developed as magnet towns in the North-Eastern States;

(b) the plan proposed to be formulated in this regard, city-wise; and

(c) the allocation of funds made during the current year; city-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI P.K. THUNGON): (a) to (c). The plans for development of Magnet towns are prepared by the concerned town planning authorities in State Governments. Local and regional conditions vary from town to town, and plans for development of magnet towns differ between places. Government of India have not received plans - physical or economic - formulated or proposed to be formulated for development of Magnet towns in the North-Eastern States.

However, project proposals are being received from States including those in North-Eastern region for taking up certain infrastructure development schemes in small and medium towns selected by the State Governments under the Integrated Development of Small & Medium Towns (IDSMT) Scheme. There are no specific allocations for any city/town as the releases of Central assistance are dependent on the project reports conforming to IDSMT guidelines including