

the consideration of the Government of India. Some of these applicants may use rock phosphate available at Jhabua in case industrial licences are granted to them.

Availability of Essential Commodities in Assam

2154. SHRI SANTOSH MOHAN DEV: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND CIVIL SUPPLIES be pleased to state:

(a) the immediate measures so far adopted/proposed to be adopted to make available essential commodities in Assam particularly for salt, rice, Kerosene oil, sugar and the steps so far taken to introduce a proper public Distribution System in Assam; and

(b) what is the quantity of levy sugar allotted to Assam and quantity allotted and distributed in Cachar District in January and February, 1980?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND CIVIL SUPPLIES AND STEEL AND MINES (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) Since difficulties have been faced in movement of essential commodities to Assam by railways, a committee of officials has been constituted to review and monitor the movement of essential commodities to Assam.

Salt quota has been allotted to Assam from various sources as demanded by the Assam State Cooperative Marketing and Consumers' Federation Ltd.. The sole nominee of Assam Government for import of salt into the State. It is proposed to move salt in block rakes within the next four to six weeks to make salt available in adequate quantities.

For the month of March, 1980, 20,000 tonnes of wheat and 30,000 tonnes of rice were allotted to Assam for public distribution. Efforts are being made by railways to step up the movement of foodgrains to Assam and other north-eastern States to about 3,500 tonnes per day (one lakh tonnes per

month). During the period from 18th March to 21st March, 1980 average daily loading to these States has already picked upto 3000 tonnes.

For the period 17th December, 1979 and 31st March, 1980, Assam has been allotted 24,300 tonnes of levy sugar. By 20th March, 1980, 10,841 tonnes of levy sugar had been moved to Assam. Further despatches are in progress.

State Government has reported that during the past few months there was acute shortage of kerosene owing to closure of Digboi and Gauhati refineries. The position has now improved after commencement of production in the refineries.

According to the State Government, the entire State of Assam has been covered by the public distribution system comprising cooperatives with their retail outlets in rural areas and fair price shops and cooperatives in urban areas.

(b) Allotment of levy sugar to Assam in January and February, 1980 was 7,541 tonnes per month. According to the information made available by the State Government, allotment of levy sugar to Cachar District in January and February, 1980 was 835.4 tonnes per month.

Amount spent on AIR Journey by L.I.C. Officers

2155. SHRI V. N. GADGIL: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the L.I.C. Class I Officers Federation has presented a Memorandum dated 14th January, 1980 highlighting the anomalies in the pay scales, D.A., and other allowances of Class I and Class III employees;

(b) whether it is a fact that Class I employees have demanded that they may be demoted;

(c) whether it is a fact that the personal assistant of a Zonal Manager in the L.I.C. gets more emoluments than the Zonal Officer; and

(d) if so, what steps Government propose to take to remove the anomalies?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JAGANNATH PAHADIA): (a) & (b) Yes Sir. However in the Memorandum Class I Officers have not demanded that they may be demoted.

(c) & (d) No Sir. There is no post of Zonal Officer in the L. I. C. The Hon'ble Member perhaps refers to the post of Zonal Manager. The personal assistant of the Zonal Manager however does not get more emoluments than the Zonal Manager.

Fixation of pay of Central Govt. Employees

2156. **SHRI AMAR ROYPRADHAN:** Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that pay once fixed in a particular post under the existing normal rules of F.R. for the non-Gazetted Central Government employees may be reduced or revised;

(b) if so, under what grounds;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(d) has any case of the non-Gazetted Central Government employees so far been decided by the Central Government in which the pay once fixed in a particular post under the existing normal rules of F.R. have been reduced and if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI R. VENKATARAMAN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The pay of a Government servant, including a non-gazetted Central Government employees, can be reduced as a result of penalty under Central Civil Service (Classification, Control and Appeal) Rules, 1966, or

in accordance with his own option. His pay can also be revised consequent upon general revision of scales of pay or when there is a revision of scale of pay of his post because of change in duties and responsibilities.

(c) Do not arise.

(d) There may have been cases where the pay of non-gazetted Central Government employees might have been reduced either as a measure of penalty or in accordance with their own option. No record of such cases is, however, kept centrally at one place in the Government.

Black Marketeers and Hoarders of Essential Commodities arrested in the Country

2157. **SHRI UTTAM BHAI PATEL:** Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND CIVIL SUPPLIES be pleased to state:

(a) the number of persons arrested for black marketing and hoarding during Janata-Lok Dal Rule that is 1st April, 1977 to 10th January, 1980; and

(b) quantity and value of the goods seized and action taken against the culprits?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND CIVIL SUPPLIES AND STEEL AND MINES (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) & (b) Information is being collected and will be placed on the Table of the House.

Implementation of prevention of Black Marketing and Maintenance of Supplies of Essential Commodities Act, 1980 in States

2158. **SHRI AHMED M. PATEL:**
SHRIMATI MOHSINA
KIDWAI:
SHRI V. S. VIJAYARAGHAVAN:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND CIVIL SUPPLIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether all the States have adopted Prevention of Black Marketing and Maintenance of Supplies of Essential Commodities Act, 1980;

(b) if so, the names of the States which have not adopted;