

advance so that the claims could be settled by the Life Insurance Corporation of India (LICI) in time. However, as on 30th September, 1993, the LICI could not send the discharge vouchers to about 52 policyholders as their addresses were not readily available on account of their frequent transfers from place to place. In such cases, the concerned Branch Offices of the LICI are deputing the officials to contact the employers of the policyholders to get their latest addresses in order to enable the LICI to obtain all the relevant documents and settle these claims.

Gratuity Limit

254. SHRI GOPI NATH GAJAPATHI : Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have enhanced the gratuity limit from Rs. 50,000 to Rs. 1 lakh for the Government employees and other workers ;

(b) if so, since when and its impact on financial exchequer ;

(c) whether the decision has been implemented ; and

(d) if so, the number of workers likely to be benefited therefrom ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI P.A. SANGMA) : (a) to (d) In respect of the workers covered/coverable under the Payment of Gratuity Act, 1972, the Government has since decided to raise the ceiling on the maximum amount of gratuity from Rs. 50,000 to Rs. 1 lakh. The Government employees under their service rules are already entitled to payment of gratuity upto the maximum of Rs. 1 lakh. Therefore, the decision to enhance the maximum amount of gratuity under the payment of Gratuity Act has no financial implications for the exchequer. The implementation of the decision about the proposed enhancement requires suitable amendments in the Payment of Gratuity Act. Necessary action to introduce an Amendment Bill in Parliament has since been initiated.

Setting up of Duty Free Ware-Houses

255. SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have decided to allow the private companies to set up duty free ware-houses to stock and sell raw materials as well as components to end users engaged in export-oriented production ;

(b) whether the modalities have been worked out in this regard ; and

(c) if so, the details thereof and the idea behind this scheme ?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE) : (a) to (c) The matter is under consideration of the Government.

Development of Monuments

256. SHRI SHRAVAN KUMAR PATEL : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Union Government have asked the State Governments to identify atleast one monument in their State which can be developed as a world class tourism attraction ; and

(b) if so, the response of each State Government thereto ?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) On the basis of information received from some of the States and in consultation with Archaeological Survey of India, a list of monuments has been drawn up.

ADB Loan for Population Control Programmes

257. SHRI DATTATRAYA BANDARU :

SHRI N. K. BALIYAN :

SHRI CHETAN P. S. CHAUHAN :

SHRI RAMPAL SINGH :

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Asian Development Bank is providing loan to the poor and develop-

ing countries for implementing the population control programmes;

(b) if so, whether the Government have also applied for the loan from the Asian Development Bank for this purpose;

(c) if so, the details thereof including the amount of the loan applied for;

(d) the time by which this loan is likely to be received; and

(e) the terms and conditions laid down by ADB to provide this loan?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (DR. ABRAR AHMED): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) to (e) Do not arise.

Narcotic Drug Trafficking

258. SHRI ARVIND TULSHIRAM KAMBLE: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether any agreement has been signed to check illegal movement of narcotic drugs at the time of visit of Zambian President to India in October 1993; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M. V. CHANDRASHEKHARA MURTHY): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The agreement provides for exchanging information and undertaking measures in order to identify, suppress and prevent the criminal activities of International drug syndicates.

[*Translation*]

Malnutrition and Diseases in Child Labourers

259. SHRI PANKAJ CHOWDHRY: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Centre of Concern for Labour has recently conducted any survey

regarding malnutrition and increasing diseases in child labourers in unorganised sector;

(b) if so, the findings thereof; and

(c) the remedial steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI P. A. SANGMA): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir, A Survey of child labourers in four different locations i.e. Delhi, Bhopal, Sonbhadra & Aligarh was done by Centre of Concern for Child Labour. The survey revealed that child labour as in general suffer from malnutrition, eye problems, fatigue and loss of appetite.

(c) A number of projects for the welfare and rehabilitation of working children are being implemented under the National Child Labour Policy as also under the Grant-in-Aid scheme of the Central Government. Besides, an International Programme for the Elimination of Child Labour has been taken up with help from ILO, for welfare of children withdrawn from work. Realising that children are affected adversely both mentally and physically when they work, the provision of nutrition and health care to children, has been included as an important input, in all these projects.

[*English*]

Public Sector Banks

260. SHRI PRAKASH V. PATIL:
SHRI CHITTA BASU:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether a number of branches of public sector banks have become unviable;

(b) if so, the number of such branches, bank-wise; and

(c) the remedial steps taken to make them viable?