

(c) if not, whether such a study in the weather behavioural pattern following the delayed arrival of monsoons in the north proposed to be conducted?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF OCEAN DEVELOPMENT, ATOMIC ENERGY, ELECTRONICS AND SPACE (SHRI K.R. NARAYANAN): (a) and (b). India Meteorological Department has been conducting expert studies by analysing data on the dates of onset of Monsoon for various places in the country for the last several decades. The analysis of the data did not reveal any decisive trend of early or delayed onset of monsoon.

(c) Does not arise.

Expenditure by LIC on New Building in Cannaught Place

547. DR. B.L. SHAILESH: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether his Ministry has received strong objections from a Central Investigating agency regarding the Rs. 2 crore expenditure by the Life Insurance Corporation on the aluminium and glass facade of its 15 crore new building in Cannaught Place, New Delhi;

(b) whether his Ministry has examined the desirability of such an expenditure by the LIC; and

(c) if so, his Ministry's reaction to this expenditure by the LIC?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY) (a) Based on technical examination by the CTE organisation of the Central vigilance Commission, the Commission had brought to the notice of Govt. the work pertaining to the LIC Mega Centre in New Delhi so as to evolve systems and procedures for checking expenditure on Central Govt. projects. The Commission had *inter-alia* drawn attention to the glass facade with aluminium frame in this building.

(b) and (c). Govt. have examined the matter in detail. The building has been taken up by LIC as a commercially viable venture. Looking to the importance of the building and its location, the construction plans have been got designed by the well-known architect, Shri Charles Correa. Since the expenditure on various items has been incurred as per specifications laid down in the overall plan for the project, the expenditure incurred on glass and aluminium facade, is not considered unreasonable.

Liberalisation of Gold Licensing Policy

548. DR. B. L. SHAILESH : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the high powered Working Group on Gold Control Machinery has recommended the liberalisation of the licensing policy under the Gold Control Act, 1968;

(b) if so, what are the other major recommendations made by this Group; and

(c) the action proposed thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The other major recommendations include increase in the limits of primary gold that may be held by goldsmiths; exclusion of components of ornaments from the scope of the term "Primary Gold", conversion of quarterly returns of the dealers into an annual return and several modifications in the registers prescribed for maintenance by gold dealers.

Relaxations of the provisions of the Gold Control Act recommended in respect of gold jewellery and articles manufactured for export market include permission to commence work in gold jewellery complexes and export processing zones without having to wait for the issue of a gold dealer licence; relaxation of the quantitative limits of primary gold that may be held by a manufacturer of

gold jewellery; permitting the taking of samples of gold jewellery out of licensed premises in special export oriented complexes for being shown to foreign buyers and brought back; permission to sell gold jewellery outside licensed premises at Government-sponsored fairs.

(c) The recommendations of the Group are under examination of the Government.

Bamboo Plantations

549. SHRI VIJAY N. PATIL: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state :

(a) whether tonnes of surplus bamboo seeds will be available this year due to large-scale flowering of bamboo trees in Gujarat, Maharashtra, Andhra Pradesh and other States;

(b) if so, how Government propose to utilise the surplus bamboo seeds; and

(c) whether Government have any proposal to distribute surplus bamboo seeds to voluntary agencies for raising bamboo plantation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI Z.R. ANSARI): (a) and (b). Flowering of bamboos is a natural phenomenon that occurs periodically. Some of the seeds fall on the ground and germinate to restock the area, while some seeds are collected for raising nursery seedlings in plantations.

(c) State Governments arrange supply of surplus bamboo seeds to organisations, including voluntary agencies.

Re-employment of Retired Officers

550. SHRI KAMLA PRASAD SINGH: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the number of retired officers re-employed in the Ministry of Personnel, Pension and details since when employed

and on which assignment and the terms of re-employment;

(b) the details of the senior officers holding ex-cadre posts in the above said Ministry, since when they hold it and when is their term expiring for reversion back to their parent organisations; and

(c) the details of guidelines for selecting senior officers on ex-cadre posts?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) Three officers have been re-employed in this Ministry. The details of these officers and the terms of their re-employment are given in the Statement given below.

(b) and (c). There are no ex-cadre posts at the senior level under this Ministry. The appointments to Senior posts under the Ministry are normally made under Central Staffing Scheme from amongst eligible officers belonging to All India and Central Services, keeping in view the job requirements of each post and the qualifications and experience of the officers in the field of choice.

(b) and (c). There are no ex-cadre posts at the senior level under the Ministry are normally made under Central Staffing Scheme from amongst eligible officers belonging to All India and Central Services, keeping in view the job requirements of each post and the qualifications and experience of the officers in the field of choice.

STATEMENT

Details of retired officers re-employed

Staff Selection Commission

1. Shri S.C. Mittal, Chairman SSC

Shri S.C. Mittal, an officer of the Indian Civil Accounts Service formerly Additional Controller General