

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P.R. DAS MUNSI) : (a) to (d). The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Strike Call by Bank Employees Federation

2241. SHRI KAMLA PRASAD SINGH : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Bank Employees Federation of India has given a call for a country-wide strike on 27th November, 1987 to press for their various demands ;

(b) if so, the details of their demands ; and

(c) the steps taken or proposed to be taken to meet the demands ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY) : (a) to (c). Bank Employees Federation of India (BEFI) is understood to have given a call for country-wide strike on 27th November, 1987 demanding immediate negotiations with the Federation on their Charters of Demands by the Indian Banks' Association, which represent the management side of the banking industry. The main demands of the BEFI are : revision of pay scales based on 1960 price index at 660 points namely—clerks Rs. 1245-3700 and sub-staff Rs. 1030-2100 ; full neutralisation of Dearness Allowance above Price Index at 660 points ; increased/revision in the quantum of existing Special Allowances and other Allowances, etc. ; introduction of Pension, improvements in other service matters such as Provident Fund, Gratuity, medical benefits, leave rules ; etc.

It is learnt from IBA that they are not willing to invite for the present negotiations those unions, such as BEFI, which have refused to subscribe to the earlier settlements including those on computerisation and mechanisation. IBA has not taken any action on the charter of demands of BEFI.

Demands of Cotton Cloth for Textile Mills

2242. SHRIMATI KISHORI SINHA : Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state :

(a) whether cotton textile mills are facing demand resistance to their products ;

(b) whether this had led to fall in cotton prices ;

(c) whether this is mainly due to invasion of blended fabrics and polyester fibre being cheaper than cotton ; and

(d) if so, the steps being taken to improve the competitiveness of cotton cloth ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES AND MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI RAM NIWAS MIRDHA) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c). No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

[Translation]

Environment Task Force Battalion for Pithoragarh, U.P.

2243. SHRI HARISH RAWAT : Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government propose to constitute an Environment Task Force Battalion of Territorial Army for Pithoragarh District of Uttar Pradesh ;

(b) if so, the details thereof ; and

(c) if not, the reasons thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF DEFENCE PRODUCTION AND SUPPLIES IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PATIL) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) The Ministry of Defence has received no such proposal.

Setting up of an Ordnance Factory in Pithoragarh/Uttar Pradesh

2244. SHRI HARISH RAWAT : Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is a proposal to set up an Ordnance factory at Pithoragarh in Uttar Pradesh to manufacture light items of