

Bonus to L.I.C. Employees

2332. SHRI BIRENDRA PRASAD:
Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the LIC employees used to get bonus but the same was stopped during emergency; and

(b) if so, whether Government propose to pay bonus to them?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE AND REVENUE AND BANKING (SHRI H. M. PATEL): (a) and (b) The Class III and Class IV employees of LIC as per the settlements of 1974 (current from 1-4-1973 to 31-3-1977) were to be paid bonus without any ceiling at the rate of 15 per cent of annual salary. They had been paid bonus for two years viz. 1973-74 and 1974-75.

2 Following amendments to the Payment of Bonus Act 1965 through issue of an Ordinance in September 1975, Government decided that the employees of the non-competing public sector employees including Banks, L.I.C. and G.I.C. may be paid an *ex-gratia* amount beginning with the accounting year 1974/1974-75. The amount of *ex-gratia* was to range from zero to 10 per cent depending upon the wage level, financial circumstances and other relevant factors in the industry concerned.

3. It was however not possible to follow the guidelines in respect of LIC employees as there was a subsisting settlement between the Corporation and its employees for payment of bonus at the rate of 15 per cent of annual salary without any ceiling. To bring the employees on a par with those of the GIC and nationalised bank, the provisions of the 1974 settlements so far as they pertained to payment of bonus was annulled by the Life Insurance Corporation (Modification of Settlements) Act, 1976 in March, 1976 which came into force with effect from 1-4-1975.

4. Although it had been decided to pay to eligible employees *ex-gratia* amount for the year 1975-76 at 4 per cent of annual salary, it could not be disbursed to them due to their refusal to take payment.

5. The validity of the L.I.C. (Modification of Settlements) Act, 1976 has been challenged in the Supreme Court by two unions of the LIC Class III and Class IV employees. As the hearing of the case is already going on in the Supreme Court the Government in the circumstances propose to wait for its outcome.

झालू का निर्यात

2333. श्री राम साहू राहो: क्या वाणिज्य तथा नागरिक प्रति और सहकारिता मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि:

(क) क्या सरकार ने फरवरी, 1977 में झालू के निर्यात पर रोक लगा दी थी जिसके परिणामस्वरूप झालू उत्पादकों में निराशा म्यान है और झालू के मूल्यों में गिरावट आ रही है;

(ख) यदि हां तो सरकार का विचार झालू के निर्यात पर लगी रोक कब तक उठाने का है; और

(ग) झालू के निर्यात से वर्ष 1974-75, 1975-76 और 1976-77 के दौरान कितनी विदेशी मुद्रा की प्राय हुई?

वाणिज्य तथा नागरिक प्रति और सहकारिता मंत्रालय में राज्य मंत्री (श्री आरिफ बेग) : (क) फरवरी, 1977 में झालू के निर्यात पर हम बात का ध्यान में रखते हुये रोक लगाई गई थी कि झालू की बरेल कीमतें ऊपर चढ़ रही थी और फसल की सम्भावना अच्छी नहीं थी। निर्यातों पर रोक लगने के बाद भी कीमतों में ऊंच रुख बन रह और बांक कीमतों का मासिक सूचकांक रोक लगने के समय प्रचलित कीमतों का अंशका रोक