

employees at the rate of 25 per cent—30 per cent of the basic pay while the Central Government employees are paid at the rate of 15 per cent;

(b) if so, in view of the ever increasing house rents in Delhi, whether Government consider enhancement in the house rent allowance at par with the rate applicable to employees of public sector undertakings stationed at Delhi; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE AND REVENUE AND BANKING (SHRI H. M. PATEL): (a) Delhi is a 'A' class city and the Central Government employees posted there are getting House Rent Allowance (H.R.A.) at 15 per cent of pay subject to maximum of Rs. 400 p. m. Some Public Sector undertakings are paying H.R.A. to their employees at higher rates.

(b) and (c). Payment of H.R.A. to the Central Government employees is based on the recommendation of the Third Pay Commission. The Commission did not accept the demand for parity between Central Government employees and the employees of the public sector undertakings in matter of house rent allowance. The Pay Commission had recommended certain alternative measures to improve the rates of H.R.A. payable to the Central Government employees, but the Government did not find it possible to adopt them keeping in view the administrative difficulties and financial implications. There is no proposal at present to enhance house rent allowance.

Cancellation of Import Licences for Palm Oil refined

3212. SHRI C. K. JAFFER SHARIEF: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND CIVIL SUPPLIES AND COOPERATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Union Government have announced cancellation of all import licences for palm oil refined for direct human consumption against which shipment has not been made

wholly or partly on or before October, 1977;

(b) whether Government have also issued notification that no fresh licences will be granted for the import of palm oil refined for direct human consumption; and

(c) if so, the details regarding the policy of Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND CIVIL SUPPLIES AND COOPERATION (SHRI ARIF BEG): (a) to (c). No fresh licences are being issued for palm oil refined, for direct human consumption, with effect from the 20th September 1977. Licences issued earlier, against which shipments had not been made wholly or partly on or before the 15th October, 1977 have also been invalidated.

बिहार के भागलपुर जिले में सुकातिया बाजार में यूनाइटेड बैंक की शाखा खोलना

3213. श्री ज्ञानेश्वर प्रसाद यादव : क्या वित्त मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) क्या बिहार में भागलपुर जिले के गोपालपुर प्रखंड में सुकातिया बाजार एक व्यापारिक केन्द्र है और प्रखंड मुख्यालय डेढ़ किलोमीटर की दूरी पर है;

(ख) क्या युनाइटेड बैंक सुकातिया बाजार में अपनी शाखा खोलने जा रहा है; और

(ग) यदि हां, तो यह शाखा कब तक कार्य करना आरम्भ कर देगी ?

वित्त तथा राजस्व और बैंकिंग मंत्री (श्री एच० एम० पटेल) : (क) से (ग). सरकार ने सरकारी क्षेत्र के बैंकों को मलाह दी है कि प्रत्येक सामुदायिक विकास खण्ड में कम से कम एक वाणिज्यिक बैंक-शाखा अवश्य होनी चाहिए और बिना बैंक वाले खण्ड मुख्यालयों को तरजीह दी जानी