

(c) how many of them are in the age group of 71—75, 76—80 and 81—85?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI H. M. PATEL): (a) The total number of Central Government pensioners (including family pensioners) as on 1-1-1976 was approximately 9.84 lakhs.

(b) Information available in respect of Central Government pensioners who commuted their pensions during 1973 to 1975 is as follows:—

Total number of persons who retired 1,55,000 approx.

Total number of pensioners who commuted their pensions 51,400 approx.

(c) This information is not maintained in the records kept by the agencies responsible for sanctioning and authorising payment of pension. The collection of this information will involve review of all pension payment orders at a large number of treasuries, public sector banks etc. scattered all over the country which disburse pensions. It is considered that the time and effort involved in collecting the information may not yield commensurate results.

Total number of Government Pensioners

10256. **SHRI RAJARAM SHANKARRAO MANE:** Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) what is the total number of Government pensioners who retired before 1st January, 1964 and were alive on 31st December, 1976; and

(b) how many of them retired on 3/8th pension and were paid DCR gratuity equal to their 15 months emoluments?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI H. M. PATEL): The collection of the information will necessitate reference to a large number of Central and State Government agencies responsible for authorising and paying

Civil, Defence, Railway and Posts and Telegraphs pensioners, who will have to review pension cases of all persons who retired before 1-1-1964 for collecting the desired information. It is considered that the time and effort involved in the collection of this information may not be commensurate with the results likely to be achieved.

Postings in Central Excise, Farrukhabad Division, Kanpur Collectorate

10257. **SHRI MANOHAR LAL:** Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state the policy of Government regarding posting of rankers in field service and rotation of subordinate Officers in Ranges and preventive jobs and how far this policy was actually given effect to during emergency period in Central Excise Farrukhabad Division, Kanpur Collectorate?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI SATISH AGRAWAL): The meaning of the expression 'rankers used by the honourable Member is not clear. It has been presumed that it refers to officers of the rank of Assistant Collector and above, other than those recruited directly to Group 'A' posts. It has also been presumed that 'subordinate officers' refers to the Inspector of Central Excise.

2. Officers of the level of Assistant Collectors and Deputy Collectors of Customs and Central Excise are generally transferred from one posting to another after a period of about 4 years. Sometimes, however, this period may vary, having regard to administrative considerations, bonafide cases of hardship, the nature of work in any particular post, etc.

3. So far as Farrukhabad Division of Kanpur Collectorate is concerned, the Assistant Collector in-charge, who was a directly recruited officer, remained