

Steps to curb smuggling

882. SHRIMATI MOHSINA KIDWAI : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the smugglers have geared up their activities during the last year ;

(b) whether smuggled goods are now easily available on the road sides, in metropolitan cities these days ; and

(c) if so, what solid steps Government propose to take to curb down smuggling ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI SATISH AGRAWAL) : (a) Reports received by the Government indicate that most of the organised gangs of smugglers have been lying low and have not been very active.

(b) There are no reports of any increase in the availability of smuggled goods on the road-sides in metropolitan cities.

(c) The Government have taken a number of steps to combat smuggling. These include, strengthening of preventive and intelligence units, a more intensified patrolling of vulnerable areas on the sea coast and along the land borders, exercising greater vigilance at the major sea ports and international air ports and providing to the Customs preventive staff necessary equipments by way of motor vehicles, binoculars, frisker devices, night-sights, etc. The Customs Act has also been recently amended to raise the minimum sentence from six months to one year in certain types of cases. Besides, a number of economic measures have been taken to reduce the incentives for smuggling of some sensitive items. In order to curb the evil of gold smuggling, the Government have also commenced the sale of gold from the stocks held by it.

चतुर्थ श्रेणी के कर्मचारियों को अतिरिक्त महंगाई भत्ता

883. श्री गोविन्द मण्डा : क्या वित्त मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) क्या सरकार का ध्यान चतुर्थ श्रेणी के कर्मचारियों को भ्रमण से अतिरिक्त महंगाई भत्ता देने की मांग की ओर विभागा गया है ;

(ख) क्या चतुर्थ श्रेणी के कर्मचारियों को अतिरिक्त महंगाई भत्ता देने अथवा विशेष महंगाई भत्ता देने की मांग ऊंचे मूल्यां तथा चतुर्थ श्रेणी के कर्मचारियों के कम वेतन को देखते हुए है ;

(ग) यदि नहीं, तो उसके क्या मुख्य कारण हैं और क्या सरकार ने सलाहकार समिति का ध्यान इन कर्मचारियों को महंगाई भत्ते की एक अथवा दो अतिरिक्त किस्तें देने की ओर प्राकल्पित करने के प्रश्न पर विचार किया है ;

(घ) यदि नहीं, तो उसके मुख्य कारण क्या हैं ; और

(ङ) यदि हां, तो महंगाई भत्ता अथवा विशेष भत्ता कब तक दिया जाएगा ?

वित्त मंत्री (श्री एच० एम० पटेल) :

(क) जी नहीं ।

(ख) से (ङ). प्रश्न नहीं उठता ।

Appointment of a Pension Commission

884. SHRI C. K. JAFFER SHARIEF : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the All India Organization of Pensioners have demanded the appointment of a Pension Commission to look into their problems ;

(b) if so, the reaction of the Government there to ; and

(c) the steps envisaged to enhance the pension of the pensioners due to rising prices ?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI H. M. PATEL) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) It was not found possible to accept their demand.

(c) with a view to compensating Central Government pensioners for the rise in prices, 7 instalments of relief totalling 35% of pension, subject to a minimum of Rs. 25/- per month and a maximum of Rs. 175/- per month, have been sanctioned