

Promotion of Departmental Stenographers as Tax Assistants in the Income Tax Department

2871. SHRI K. LAKKAPPA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether in Income-tax Department, departmental Stenographers (OG) having qualifications equivalent to that of direct recruits, have been debarred for being considered for promotion to the posts of Tax Assistants; and if so, the reasons for this discrimination;

(b) whether it is a fact that consequent upon the creation of posts of Tax Assistants in the Income-tax Department, there is wide-spread and strong resentment among the Stenographers (OG) in the various offices all over India; and

(c) whether Government propose to consider these departmental Stenographers (OG) at par with those of direct recruits in the matter of promotion to the post of Tax Assistant; and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI ZULFIQUARULLAH): (a) In pursuance of a recommendation of the Direct Taxes Enquiry Committee, a new cadre of Tax Assistance was created in the Income-tax Department by upgrading 1/3rd of the cadre strength of U.D.Cs, with a view to providing experienced ministerial staff to deal with important items of clerical work. By the very nature of the duties attached to the posts of Tax Assistants, Stenographers are not eligible for being considered for these posts.

(b) A number of representations were received from the Stenographers against their not being made eligible for the posts of Tax Assistants.

(c) Does not arise in view of the reply to (a) above

Import of Rock-Salt from Pakistan

2872. SHRI MOHD. SHAFI QURESHI: Will the Minister of COMMERCE, CIVIL SUPPLIES AND COOPERATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are proposing to import rock-salt from Pakistan; and

(b) if so, the quantity to be imported?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND CIVIL SUPPLIES AND COOPERATION (SHRI ARIF BEG): (a) With effect from 24th May, 1978 import of rock salt had been placed on Open General Licence. This includes import of this commodity from Pakistan.

(b) It is expected that the import shall not exceed 1 lakh tonnes.

Assessment of Agricultural Income

2873. SHRI K. RAMAMURTHY: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to raise the tax exemption for the agricultural income like the income tax exemption up to Rs. 10,000/- from Rs. 8000/-;

(b) whether the discrimination between the agricultural income and other professional income will be abolished in this way; and

(c) whether Government propose to appoint a committee to streamline the assessment of Agricultural income?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI H. M. PATEL): (a) and (b).